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Islands row deepens Gulf distrust

AMMAN (P) — A row between Gulf Arab states and their powerful neighbor Iran has deepened distrust in the region that has since been half the world's oil reserves and has been a source of tension for the past two years to some extent.

Arab and Western diplomats said conservative Gulf states were alarmed by Iranian threats to seize disputed islands. Iran's President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday Gulf states "will have to cross a line of honor" to reach the islands, implying Iran would not give them up except by war.

"This is definitely pointing to a confrontation and escalating tensions between Iran and the Arab states," said one Gulf diplomat. The diplomats said the Gulf states were alarmed by the Iranian actions since they are still worried about the dispute through diplomatic and military means.

"I don't think it's a precursor of a confrontation. In the long run, things will be solved. The Iranian intentions in this regard are not serious," one Western diplomat said.

The diplomats said Gulf Arab states were trying to be cautious in their approach to the crisis but there were no apparent reconciliation chances except a Shiite initiative to ease Iran's relations with the West.

with its Gulf neighbors but with Egypt.

Gulf has been attacked Iran in the past few months and accused it of increasing Middle Eastern tensions. Iran's President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday Gulf states "will have to cross a line of honor" to reach the islands, implying Iran would not give them up except by war.

The diplomats said that many of the attacks came from radical newspapers trying to challenge the status quo. The radical Iranian newspaper demanded that Iran go further than seeking its security to defend its sovereignty over the islands by reviving a claim to Bahrain. The late Shah of Iran relinquished Iran's claim to Bahrain in 1970.

Western diplomats said Bahrain was not taking the crisis seriously. Iran has been unable to convince Bahraini officials that Iranian paper was a Shiite demand rather than a Shiite demand.

The recent Iranian warnings were in reaction to a statement by a member of the country's Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Amman that Iran was not serious about the Gulf islands as an annexation of Abu Musa Island and part of the Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands. The new Iranian claim this year

after Iran extended its control to the whole of Abu Musa, which it has been jointly for more than 20 years with Sharjah, a member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Talks collapsed in September after the UAE demanded to exchange them to include the Tunbs. Iran agreed to share control of Abu Musa with Sharjah after being assured of half the income from an oilfield off Abu Musa. But neither side relinquished its claim to sovereignty over the whole of Abu Musa and the UAE government felt that by extending its control over the island, Iran had crossed the line of the status quo.

Over the last two months Iran tried to defuse tensions over Abu Musa by allowing the return of foreign travelers, doctors and power workers it had expelled earlier.

But the UAE said Iranian authorities were still controlling the island and were even allowing Iranian soldiers there.

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Report: Iraq has biological arms

NEW YORK (A) — Iraq has been developing biological weapons since 1980, according to what appears to be an official Iraqi document, the New York Times reported in Wednesday's edition.

The newspaper said the document appeared to be a military order addressed to division units from a commander in Erbil, Iraq.

Apparently drafted in 1986, it contains details on how to conduct chemical and biological warfare, and to use the weapons to attack the enemy.

The document was provided to the newspaper and the Times by a senior representative of the Iraqi government, one of the two leading Iraqi political parties governing an autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq, the New York Times said.

The newspaper said analysts for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) who were shown the document said while it was impossible to verify its authenticity with any certainty they had confidence the order is genuine.

Kurdish officials quoted by the newspaper said the document was one of several issued by Saddam Hussein in March and April last year during his visit to Iraq following the Iraqi government's victory in the Gulf war.

Iraq has consistently denied having biological or chemical weapons. U.N. inspectors have conducted 47 missions in Iraq searching for chemical and biological weapons or proof of their existence have found no such evidence.

One CIA analyst told the New York Times the document indicated not only that Iraq had experimented with biological

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Chances good of Hamas joining PNC

AMMAN (P) — The PLO leadership, the inclusion of Hamas in the PNC would be a victory of its efforts to consolidate all Palestinian parties under its umbrella.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected to offer Hamas up to 25 seats in the PNC, which has 450 members but the last election, in addition to the 25 seats, Hamas could gain seats through Islamic courts, professional associations, and other popular organizations which share the basis of the unity in the PNC.

The number 25 came up because the PLO leadership with Hamas was a pre-arranged. In addition, the inclusion of Hamas in the PNC would make any peace agreement with Israel binding on all groups.

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U.N. envoy leaves after vain mission

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THE RETURN OF THE INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY QUEEN GEORGE SARKIS

AMMAN — The renowned international beauty queen, George Sarkis, has just returned to Amman from Paris after the hair of beauty queen of France and getting acquainted with the world's most famous models of 1992.

Mr. Sarkis will be receiving the ladies of the town Thursday Dec. 31, 1992.

For reservation, contact: M. H. Haddad, Tel. 2511111

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فكرنا من الأصل

Prince Raad commends ministry's construction for disabled code

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zaid visited Wednesday the Ministry of Public Works and Housing where he had a meeting with Public Works Minister Saad Surour.

During the meeting, Prince Raad commended the ministry's construction for disabled code, which was prepared by the National Construction Council, aims to provide facilities for the disabled during the construction of a building.

The Chief Chamberlain stressed the need to ensure that all the construction projects are abiding by the code when constructing buildings. Mr. Surour, who is the national construction code, briefed Prince Raad on the council's achievements represented in issuing 32 construction codes dealing with all conditions that should be available in buildings, including requirements for the disabled.

The ministry is implementing these codes in its current projects, such as in the new Palace of Justice buildings, the minister said, stressing that the code for the disabled will be implemented in any public project in the future.

This code, the minister said, will be obligatory in all construction projects, once it is enacted and published in the official gazette.

At the conclusion of the visit, Mr. Surour presented Prince Raad with the shield of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in appreciation of his role in supporting the ministry's various activities.

UNICEF praises education system

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has achieved major achievements in education, and the number of students attending primary and secondary schools is equal to advanced nations, according to a report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Jordan.

UNICEF is proud to be looking at the educational system being implemented in the Kingdom, and the country's policy for educational development. Mr. Fisher, the UNICEF representative, said at a two-day meeting with the Ministry of Education.

Several working papers dealing with advanced education will be discussed at the meeting by educationists from Jordan and other international organisations, at the Ministry of Education.

Secretary General Munther Al Masri stressed the importance of the topics on the agenda. He said they cover achievements in educational training programmes and plans and recommendations for the next stage. He said the participants are also welcome to propose ideas that can help the ministry avoid non-fruitful methods used in the past.

According to Dr. Masri, the meeting is a result of recommendations of the 1987 education conference which recommended a 10-year plan for overhauling the educational system in the country.

Dr. Masri thanked UNICEF for helping to organise the meeting and for its continued assistance to Jordan in educational fields.

President to press for overtime rise for Petra

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan Press Association Suleiman Al Qudah Wednesday voiced his appreciation of the government's decision to grant workers at Jordan in radio and television an overtime rise of 30 per cent. But he said that the workers will seek to include employees of the Jordan News Agency in this decision. He said he was holding an emergency meeting for the JPA board Thursday to discuss means of pressuring the government to do so.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ### EXHIBITIONS
- Painture exhibition by Mousa Saudi at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Amman.
 - Exhibition of paintings by artist Kamal Al Jawhari at Housing Complex Art Gallery.
 - Exhibition of arts by Iraqi artist Mohammad Hussein Judi and Al Aousi, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - Exhibition of paintings by Rima Tarazi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - Painture exhibition by cartoonist Naji Al Ali at the Abdul Shoman Art Gallery.

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Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker meets Mohammad Khalifa, Speaker of the Sudanese National Assembly Wednesday (Petra photo)

Premier meets Sudan speaker

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian Sudanese relations in a number of fields were reviewed in Amman Wednesday by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Mohammad Khalifa, speaker of the Sudanese national assembly.

Mr. Khalifa, who attended the Arab Parliamentary Union Meeting in Amman Tuesday, voiced Sudan's appreciation of Jordan's efforts to re-establish solidarity among Arab states and for hosting the APU.

The prime minister said that Jordan was willing to place its potentials at the disposal of Sudan and the other Arab countries in the course of enhancing solidarity among Arabs.

Sudan's Minister of State Atef Betoush and parliament member Abdul Rahim Ekour also attended the meeting. Meanwhile, delegations who attended the APU extraordinary meeting in Amman to discuss measures to be taken with regard to Israel's deportation of Palestinian citizens, Wednesday started leaving Amman.

The APU meeting ended Tuesday with a call from Arab parliaments to the United Nations Security Council to set a deadline for Israel to allow the return of the 415 Palestinians it had expelled to south Lebanon two weeks ago. The APU also demanded that the United Nations implement its resolutions and ensure that Israel abide by international laws and regulations.

RSS to study industrial pollution control

AMMAN (J.T.) — A contract has been signed between the Ministry of Planning and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) which allows the latter to implement, in cooperation with a consultancy company in Denmark, a study on industrial pollution control in Jordan, according to a statement issued by the RSS Wednesday.

The project, which is to be financed by the government of Japan with a total cost of \$800,000 aims at conducting studies on proper means of combating industrial pollution in the kingdom, the statement said.

Findings of the project will be presented to the concerned parties to assist them in identifying suitable measures to be taken to control industrial pollution in Jordan. The project started on the first of November 1992 and will last for eleven months.

"The project will also identify the needs for the preliminary treatment of industrial wastewater. It will also suggest proper means to decrease pollutants emanating from industry in view of previous studies conducted in this regard," according to the RSS statement.

A field study will also be conducted in the framework of this project to identify the extent of pollution of soil and surface and ground water in the Jordan Valley as a result of using chemicals for agricultural purposes in this area.

British MPs to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-member British parliamentary team is due in Amman Friday on a three-day visit to Jordan. Both members of the House of Commons, Robert Adji and John Rashbon will meet Bahjat Talhouni first deputy speaker of the Senate and members of the foreign affairs committees of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. Discussions will cover issues of common concern to Britain and Jordan.

Cost of spare parts to drop by 5 per cent

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf Wednesday announced that the cost of spare parts for motor vehicles prices will go down by five per cent in the new year.

The reduction in prices means that retail merchants will reduce their profit margin from 30 to 25 per cent, said the minister in a statement following a meeting with the president and board members of the Jordanian association of auto spare parts merchants.

The minister said that the current economic circumstances facing the country and the Jordanian people requires the merchants to contribute towards alleviating the financial burdens already on car owners. He called on dealers to make available all types of spare parts requested by car owners and if necessary import them by plane. The Ministry of Supply will do all in its power to protect the consumers rights and interests within the framework of the Jordanian laws and regulations, the minister noted.

He urged consumers not to hesitate to inform the ministry of any violations by the auto spare



Motor repairs will be cheaper with the drop in price of spare parts

parts agents and merchants. The minister also promised the association to exert efforts with the customs department to reduce customs due on the imported parts in return for their reduction of prices for the consumers. The minister rejected an association request to float spare parts prices on the free market because, he said, it would mean exploiting Jordanians. "We have tried floating the prices of three commodities in the past but we found that their prices tripled," he said.

Referring to the locally manufactured parts, the minister said the national industry should be encouraged by the merchants and consumers alike. According to ministry sources, Jordan imports JD 41 million worth of auto spare parts annually. Asked to comment on the minister's statement Salameh Al Jundi, association secretary, expressed reservations: "The margin of profit made on spare parts has not changed since 1979 despite the fact that the government recently added taxes on imports at a time when the Jordanian dinar was devalued while the cost of imported items increased," he said.

Local radio station for Irbid

AMMAN (Petra) — A local radio broadcasting station covering the Irbid Governorate is due to go on the air Friday January 1, 1993. Broadcasting on 105 mega hertz FM, according to an announcement Wednesday.

Radio Jordan said that the new station, which will cover a radius of 30 kilometres around the northern city of Irbid and its suburbs, will start its broadcasts at two in the afternoon.

The Irbid station, studios have been set up within the Public Security Department in Irbid and will follow the example of the Amman FM local broadcasting station in focusing on matters of concern to the local listeners. The announcement stated that the Irbid station will be broadcasting matters related to traffic, the condition of roads, sports and youth affairs in the governorate of Irbid as well as music.

Sources at Radio Jordan said that the Irbid station will be the first of its kind to be opened outside Amman governorates, although plans have been prepared for opening other similar stations in other governorates at a later stage.

Furthermore, they said the Irbid station broadcasts will be boosted to cover population settlements in outlying areas of the Irbid governorate.

On Nov. 26, Radio Jordan introduced a French language broadcasting programme which is transmitted for two hours daily between seven and nine in the morning.

'Overtime pay for broadcasting corporation does not rule out financial independence'

By Masa Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tuesday's decision by the Council of Ministers to grant Radio and TV employees an additional thirty per cent of their salaries for overtime is not a substitute for the corporation's financial independence, but a step to solve problems connected with overtime, according to government officials.

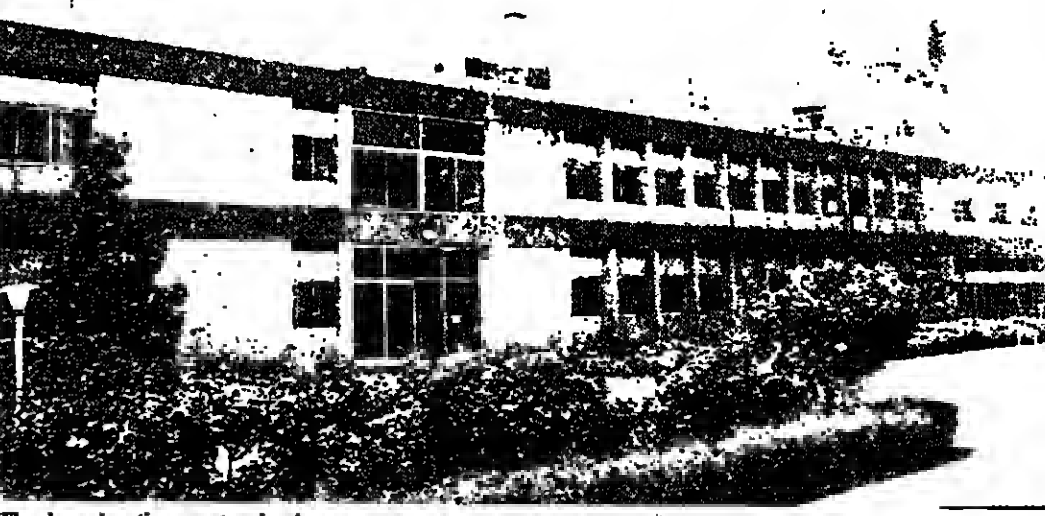
Plans have been underway for sometime to separate the broadcasting corporation from government

bureaucracy to enable it to compete with the other media channels under the new media law. Financial independence would give the institution a chance to compete for better equipment and professionals in the field.

A government official said that the increase in allowances is seen as a temporary measure to compensate the employees for low salaries, and it might be seen as an incentive for the employees until the new law is passed. He said the increase is to be granted

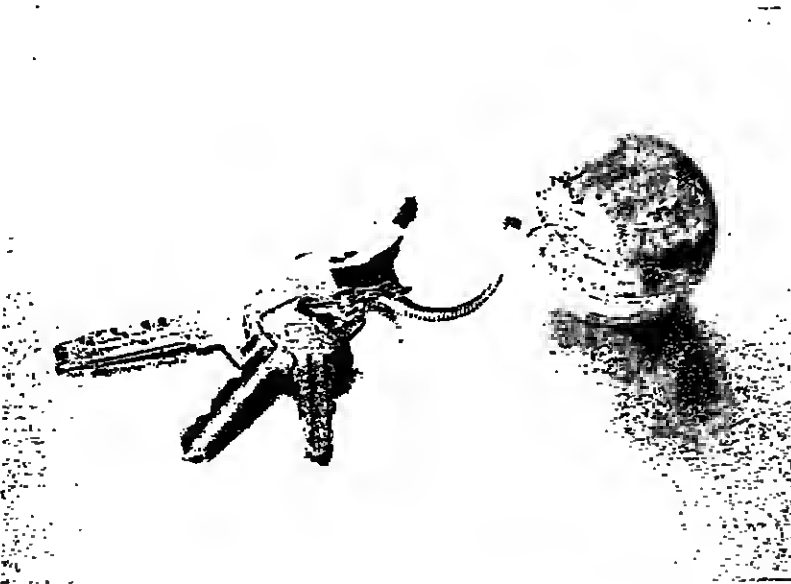
to two-hundred employees who work overtime. It will not, however, replace the plan for financial independence which is expected to be granted to the institution in the near future.

According to officials, the corporation is one of a number of government bodies which are working towards financial independence. Electricity Authority in the only ex-government body to have achieved this aim so far. The officials say some sixteen government institutions have applied for independence.



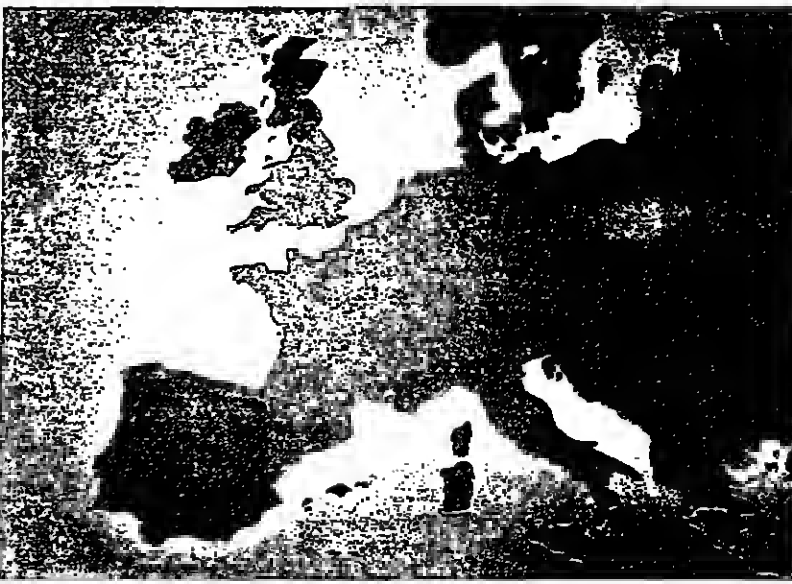
The broadcasting centre in Amman

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Between 92 and 93: Happy New Year

QUEEN ELIZABETH II's description of 1992 as annus horribilis may have been appropriate not only for her but for many around the world.

For the latter, 1992 ends very much the same way it started: Starvation, civil wars, political instability and economic hardships.

In the Middle East, the Palestinian people will mark year's end with images of 415 of their compatriots suffering in the freezing terrains of the so-called "no man's land" in southern Lebanon, away from their homes and families and subject to the cruelty of an occupation adamant in its rejection of their legitimate political, human and national rights.

The expulsion of those accused of being Hamas activists by the Israelis provides a striking reflection of the grim reality of life for all Palestinians under Israeli occupation. But it must also serve as an incentive for the international community to exert all possible effort to end the plight of a people that have seen and felt nothing but suffering for decades.

The stalemate Arab-Israeli peace process could be used as a springboard for this purpose, and it can only be hoped that 1993 will usher in a new era for this cause.

More than a year after they began in Madrid last year, the negotiations have been deadlocked by Israeli intransigence and unwillingness to compromise. All through 1992, the world community issued much rhetoric but did little else to give the process the momentum it needs.

Let us further hope that the new year will bring an end to this unjustifiable complacency that sadly contrasts with unprecedented world action towards the conflict in the Gulf where thousands of Iraqis are still suffering under crippling economic sanctions.

Except for a glimmer of optimism for Somalia that has emerged with the U.S.-led world intervention there, the situation in the African continent continued to be an affront to humanity all through 1992. Political ambitions joined forces with natural disasters to send people into death, poverty, diseases and the refugee camps. And despite the deaths and the hunger and the killings, the world has extended but a reluctant helping hand.

In Europe, the Serbs are inflicting untold atrocities of medieval proportions against the Bosnians and the Croats. The carnage against innocent people continued to threaten the lives of millions in many republics of the former Soviet Union. And there too, there is little hope in sight of an end to the suffering.

For us here in Jordan, the year 1992 has been mixed. Our people were for a while extremely worried and concerned by His Majesty the King's illness, but we have now every reason to be happy that that illness is a thing of the past and His Majesty will continue to lead our march for a long time to come. The economy, on the other hand, has done well, and that is good news for Jordanians, although there is much to be done to combat unemployment, poverty and gaps in the distribution of wealth. Gaps did appear in our democratization process, specifically the passage of the press and publications laws by the Lower House of parliament. But gaps exist in all democratic systems, and we have to take things in stride between now and then. The struggle goes on.
Happy New Year to all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB Arabic daily described the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting in Amman Tuesday as marking the beginning of a new era. The speeches of the delegates indicated that the Arab masses and their representatives are fully aware of the serious situation in the region as a result of continued Israeli repression and the ongoing conspiracies hatched against the Arabs, said the daily. Prince Hassan's address reflected the feelings of the Arab masses and urged the parliamentarians to act promptly to save the Palestinians from further oppression, said the daily. It said that Prince Hassan called on the parliamentarians to seek the help of various organizations at all for to force the Israelis to comply with the U.N. resolutions, describing the expulsion of the 400 Palestinians as a deadly blow to the peace process. The Prince's words and the positive response to them on the part of the Arab delegates reflected some kind of awakening to the reality that only through concerted efforts can the Arabs achieve something constructive and positive, added the daily. The delegates called for unity of ranks and a collective action on the part of the Arab states to abort the Israeli conspiracy of mass expelling the Palestinians from their homeland, and this is a very favourable development in inter-Arab relations, the paper added. The Arab parliamentarians, said the paper, have succeeded in raising the voice of the Arab Nation, demanding justice to be served to the Palestinians, but it remains to be seen whether the Arab states will now pursue efforts at the various levels to see to it that the aspirations of the Arab masses are to be fulfilled.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour urged the government to consider Christmas, the new year and Easter as national holidays for the country. Arbor Day, Labour Day and other holidays are celebrated at the national level in Jordan, but Christian holidays are not observed as national holidays despite the fact that Jordan has a large Christian community which has its representatives in Parliament, said Hamadeh Faraneh. The writer said that the Christian faithful are very close to the Muslim faithful and this closeness ought to prompt the Muslims to share with the Christians their religious holidays. Noting that the Jordanian banks all close on the three Christian feasts, the writer said that despite the closure, work in the financial sector is not disrupted. Celebrating Arbor Day does not mean that the country has turned heathen nor does Jordan's celebration of Labour Day mean that the Jordanians are communists, added the writer.

Yeltsin prepares for perilous year

By Ralph Boulton
Reuter

MOSCOW — Nursing a cold at his country retreat, President Boris Yeltsin prepares for a perilous year that will decide the fate of Russia's experiment with market reforms.

Mr. Yeltsin, 61, sounded warnings in the closing days of 1992. Dramatic words were gauged to win political support, but underlying them is genuine fear of an uncertain year.

Opponents are pressing for early elections, nationalist militancy is rising and the threat of mass unemployment, held at bay through 1992, must finally be confronted.

"Nothing can be more terrifying than a Russian uprising without reason, without mercy," Mr. Yeltsin told deputies, quoting poet Alexander Pushkin on the limits of patience in the Russian soul.

Only last year, hardliners used the same line in accusing Mr. Yeltsin of leading the country to bloody anarchy.

The desperation and famine predicted by opponents when Mr. Yeltsin's economic chief Yegor Gaidar freed prices in January are absent. In city parks, Muscovites skate on the thin ice of an unusually warm winter, new year trees are bundled through the streets, factories wind down for the holidays.

But opponents are clearly not dispirited.

Right-winger Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who advocates a renewed imperial Russian expansion and reckoning with enemies at home, announced at the weekend he would stand for the influential post of Moscow mayor at elections expected in February.

Mr. Zhirinovsky, handing out free tea and cakes at a rally, told admirers: "I will... get rid of all shop signs in English and remove all the filth, pornography and violence which reign on the streets, in the press and on television."

He touches on sore points, crime — violence, corruption, fraud — flourishes. English language advertisements mushroom on the streets advertising products only a privileged minority can afford in an alphabet many cannot decipher.

Mr. Zhirinovsky, who canvassed deputies in the Kremlin parliamentary lobby this month while Russia's leaders fought for power in the chamber, came third in polls that saw Mr. Yeltsin elected president in 1991. His ten per cent share of the vote probably reflected protest rather than genuine support.

But a good result at Moscow polls, the first test of the political mood here since the presidential election, could raise the temperature of Russian politics. The figure of Mr. Zhirinovsky may not capture the nation, but others hold similar ideas.

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Mr. Yeltsin's mention of a "senseless, merciless Russian rebellion" was a warning against what could emerge from chaos.

Oil and vinegar — the dilemma of a cultural hybrid

By Yasser Alwan

IT IS an age-old adage that no matter how much you stake them, oil and vinegar never mix. That is what it is to be an Arab-American or an Indian-British citizen or even an American-born Arab: a cultural hybrid. The proportions are usually too oily or too sour for one culture or the other because both western and Arab societies suffer from a disheartening cultural myopia that people like me cannot get around.

However strange some might find hybrids like myself, the Eurocentric conversion of non-western peoples is, by now, simply a fact of life. Indeed, the dislocation of Third World peoples, after decades of intervention by one or more of the western powers, has become almost a generic occurrence. This kind of dislocation has, as its genesis, the events of the last century, when a large portion of the world was ganged into the western orbit.

Such a thorough induction of so many into an alien system could only have been accomplished with the combination of violence and seduction. It was rape executed with pity (these people had to be saved after all) and Christian dogma, with its crusading bent for altruism, was used as an initial wedge to gain the first entry into these foreign cultures. The process was not all coercion, of course, for some of the beathens went along quite willingly.

Despite occasional concern for their plight, westerners perceived these peoples through the assumptions of their own cultures. They routinely characterized them as cultural alternatives of white people and rarely as individuals with a distinct set of cultural imperatives. The result was inevitable: these peoples were represented with only two dimensions, a good one combining the beneficent aspects of nature with superior European cultural attributes, or a bad one equating unrestrained nature with the latent savagery of European men. They were seen in terms of what they might become or what they were not — white Christians. Or they were not seen at all, at least in terms of the cultural organization particular to their societies, or in terms of the negative impact western contact had on their cultures. Today, such western attitudes, shaped by decades if not centuries of ethnocentric standards of behaviour, typically perceive only what is wrong in these societies.

As a result of the implicit or explicit comparison of Arab and European cultures, Arabs in the West have been commonly judged as "good" or "bad." (This phenomenon is masterfully treated in Yoram Kaniuk's novel Confessions of a Good Arab). On the other hand, the unsustainable defensiveness of the Arab World has resulted in the kind of fossilised perspective and cultural asphyxia that distorts our views of the West and makes us suspicious of western Arabs.

peans and Americans, and they ridicule(d) Arabs. Another uncle of mine constantly reminds me that the lone Israeli information office in Washington, D.C. is more influential, and run with more efficiency and dedication than the information sections of all the 21 Arab embassies combined. Because Israel has fostered and nourished an emotional attachment between itself and American Jews, these people have contributed — for political, religious, cultural, or purely emotional reasons — to Israel's well being. This plurality and acceptance of Jews

the pressures from lies and those of society. I still find a led between the standards of my "k" time and the "new" my adopted culture.

Added to this stereotyping, which from humorously at best to violently worst. For example, I am infuriated by parody of western people who do not they mimic a foreign knowing or understanding meaning; it's pat America, but the have to face the fact acceptable to like A but it is an altogether story to be an Arab.

The common flaw myself see in both World and the West these societies seek explanations, explain fit their worlds. The reflection of their ultimately find way the world conforms thought. People esp these cultures do no comfort. All we can as hard as we can consistency that is, or too soon. As this however, and as effect a more balance of cross-cultural incongruity that pre exists everywhere hopes, go away, or least, not so much. From the point of what is still called World, we cannot see decolonisation has in promoting a radical mode of thinking ideologies of imper ethnocentrism. We yet reached that deco of thought which wor affirmation of a diff fact, the insinuation thinking into our live so complete, it has even into our reach it. There is something void, a silent interval that of decolonisation which thousands of culture must survive.

Today, the West's Arabs are caught between the false egalitarianism of one system — hypocritically preached and inapplicable — against the rigid, if oppressive, hierarchical system of the other. We are caught between an Arab notion of preserving tradition that opposes the western insistence on progressive invention, the pressures from Arab families and those of American society. Added to this struggle is the stereotyping which ranges from humorously uninformed at best to violently abusive at worst.

Why do too many Arabs raised in the West feel unaccepted in the Arab World, denied an emotional attachment that they often actively seek? Perhaps they are not full-fledged Arabs, not authentic enough? Or perhaps they are seen as a threat with all their western ideas and attitudes? Why is it that my uncle, a professor at the U.S. Naval Academy, was crudely rejected by the authorities when he sought an opportunity to teach and contribute to the society in which he grew up? Do Middle Eastern Arabs feel that their western cousins have learned contempt for their own kind in the West? While it is true that some Arabs raised in the West try to justify the Arab World in western terms, many others seek a more profound understanding of their mother culture. What Arabs born and bred here must realise is that Arabs brought up in the West were given the values of Euro-

from all walks of life has become one of the formidable strengths of Israel. The Arab governments, on the other hand, have chosen to ignore their most logical allies — America's and Europe's Arabs — and instead have sought political influence through overpaid advertising and law firms. These shortsighted authorities have not yet understood that western Arabs have insight into the West's political and cultural spheres and that they would be willing to share this knowledge and more with a less insulated, more welcoming Arab World.

The writer, an Iraqi, is a graduate of Georgetown University's Centre for International Studies. He was a T. W. Higginson fellow in Lebanon and Sudan in 1988. He contributed this to the Jordan Times.

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BOOK REVIEWS

'Fluctuating and undefined'

Shifting Lines In The Sand: Kuwait's elusive frontier with Iraq

By David H. Finnie
I.B. Tauris, London 1992, £29.95

Amongst the worries of some people about the justification of the war against Iraq in 1990 was an uneasy notion that Kuwait, a rich desert corner of the Gulf adjoining the province of Basra, was historically and legally part of Iraq in any case. The author, a lawyer and business consultant, tells us that he was challenged to investigate the claim.

"The boundaries of Kuwait principally," according to the "inexhaustible" Lorimer's Gazetteer (1905), "are for the most part fluctuating and undefined." So it is not surprising that an "uneasy relationship" prevailed for ages between Kuwait and its neighbours. Negotiations, conventions, agreements and disagreements succeeded one another, and probably made things worse. Finnie carefully records and objectively examines the relevant proceedings, from the beginning of the rule of the House of Sabah in Ottoman times, about the middle of the 18th century, to the "agreed minutes between the state of Kuwait and the Republic of Iraq" in 1963, including the interventions of the British on both sides throughout the period to 1971.

Although not uncritical of "Whitehall deception" on occasion, he concludes that at least since 1963 "Iraq has had no viable basis for a claim that Kuwait is part of Iraq," adding that "there is — there must be — some rich admixture of miscalculation, of megalomania, perhaps of obsessive fanaticism, underlying Saddam Hussein's rash and disastrous excursion in the summer of 1990."

The fact is surely that in the Ba'athist view, spelt out by an earlier Iraqi president quoted by Finnie himself, "the Kuwait affair is a purely Arab question. It concerns only the Arabs. There is only one Arab nation, not several."

But in the 20th century, when we all live in national states, this really will not do. In 1963 Kuwait became the 11th state of the United Nations — Middle East International.

The first casualty of war

Smokescreen: The Media, The Censors, The Gulf

By Alex Thomson
Spellmount, Tunbridge Wells, England 1992, £10.95

The great loser from the Gulf war in the West was the media. Under the system for controlling and organising foreign journalists in Saudi Arabia which was instituted by the allied forces in the multinational coalition, the instantaneous facility of the modern electronic media for transmitting information was more than matched by official expertise at obscuring and controlling access to the facts. Alexander Thomson, who is reporter for Channel Four News, was one of the victims of what turned out to be an extremely effective system of censorship and has now written an ironic description of how it was done.

The irony resides in the fact that the systems for media control created in the Gulf were originally intended, in part, to deal with the colossal body of complaints which emerged after the Falklands war. Then the British Ministry of Defence was seen to be obstructive and information emerged days after the events largely from unhelpful official briefings in London. The new system, which was a hybrid between the lessons supposedly learnt from the Falklands experience and the restrictions placed on British freedom of action by the fact that America was the senior partner in the Gulf war and by Saudi anxieties over excessive freedom of movement for foreign journalists, was supposed to overcome these difficulties. For the Pentagon and its commanders in the field, the primary objective was to avoid the embarrassments caused to the military in Vietnam, while responding to the insatiable American appetite for immediacy in supplying news.

The reality was rather different. Quite apart from the inevitable confusion imposed by these conflicting objectives, many of the military personnel involved in the briefing process and in the infamous "pool" arrangements seemed to be more concerned to rigorously limit, rather than facilitate, the journalistic process. The Saudi authorities added to the confusion by trying to penalise journalists who attempted to break free from the constraints imposed upon them. Some journalists, too, unconsciously aided the process of official obfuscation because of their lack of expertise in military and Middle East affairs. The result was uncritical and ill-informed reporting which fitted comfortably into official preferences.

Thomson describes the consequences of the system by two examples. The first is the surprise Iraqi attack on Khafji, at the coastal end of the Saudi-Kuwait border, which the military hierarchy tried to portray as a minor irritation, rather than the major surprise that it turned out to be. The second was the whole issue of the way in which the military minders tried to hold journalists back from participating in the rush into Kuwait City — the one time when the system completely broke down. He also points out and analyses the confusion caused by the conflicting statistics provided by the military command which did much to sanitise the war. His study is useful and insightful, and a journalist's guide as to what to avoid in the future. It is a pity that he has been let down by his copy editor — Middle East International.

George Joffe



Sidney Sheldon

end up leading. Even so, why doesn't he retire? "Writing is my life. I go down to Palm Springs to relax, by the third day I'm restless. I want to go back to work. When I finished The Stars Shine Down, I told all my friends I was taking a year off. They bet me I wouldn't. I paid out over \$3,000."

The kind of drive he has exhibited in his life would, in his fiction, relate to some childhood unhappiness or trauma. He isn't about to reveal anything like that about himself, although there is perhaps a hint when he talks about his parents. "My mother, Natalie, was remarkable. She wasn't creative but she loved to read. And she worked, selling dresses in Chicago, until she died, aged 75."

Was his father proud of him? Sheldon pauses, though not this time for dramatic

effect. "My father was different — I don't know how to describe him. He was proud of my success. When Jeannie was on he told me all his friends liked the show. But he wasn't around too much. He moved around a lot."

He then tells a story about his first piece of published writing. "When I was 10, I wrote a poem and asked my father to send it to a kid's magazine I used to read. He sent it under my uncle's name — I think my father was afraid they might reject it and it might somehow reflect on him."

That's the nearest he comes to any personal revelation. Perhaps he is saving them for his autobiography, scheduled as the book after next. How long does he anticipate it will take? He gives an avuncular smile. "Well, it's taken me 75 years so far — The Independent.

The other side of millionsville

Peter Guttridge

EAGE of 75, Sidney Sheldon is probably the wealthiest man in the world. A millionaire with homes in Los Angeles, Palm Springs and New York. His novels — The Other Side Of Midnight, Bloodline and The Stars Shine — are translated into 100 languages and sold in 100 million copies.

Each one tops the best-seller lists and sells millions. The Other Side Of Midnight has sold 10 million copies and

with such statistics, it is about his novels' qualities seem both relevant and irrelevant. Face it, Sheldon, who is in the hallway of a penthouse apartment bought from Lloyd Webber, you can ask questions won't very far.

Sheldon is a tall, broad, slightly pinky blazer and maroon slacks. A veteran of whistle-stop U.S. tours and hundreds of interviews, he needs only a generalised question off on a string of

amusingly delicate well-modulated dramatic effect. "If you persist, is patience behind his? It is perhaps the only that makes the nervous when she

accidentally drops a coffee spoon on the floor. Sheldon stops talking. Silence. "Sorry, sir," she says in a tiny voice. A pause, then Sheldon resumes his anecdote with a smile.

But these are slight moments in an entertaining hour's anecdotes from, you remember, a master storyteller. And what makes Sheldon so interesting is the extraordinary life he led before writing novels, encompassing poverty in Chicago and New York and major successes on Broadway and in Hollywood. "I was born in Chicago during the Depression," he begins. "My father was a salesman who moved around a lot. I went to a lot of different schools but I was the first one in our family to go beyond third grade."

At first Sheldon dreamed of being a songwriter. While working as a hat-check attendant in a hotel in Chicago, aged 17, he gave the band-leader one of his songs. The man liked it, orchestrated it and included it in his repertoire. Excited by this, Sheldon persuaded his parents to let him go to New York to be the next Irving Berlin.

He got nowhere with the music publishers in New York, but he did see a lot of movies and aspired to the lifestyle he saw on the screen. Next stop Hollywood, as an aspiring scriptwriter.

"Naturally, I couldn't get past the studio gates, though I visited them all. Then someone told me about readers, who wrote synopses of books for busy producers. I'd just read Of Mice and Men so I sent a synopsis to every studio. Within three days I had a job at Universal," Sheldon

established a routine: up at 5 am to write scripts before going into Universal to spend the day as a reader. The scripts were bought by low budget "B" picture companies. At 18, he was an established screenwriter.

After war service, he and co-writer Ben Roberts went to New York where they were asked to write the script for a stage revival of The Merry Widow, to be choreographed by George Balanchine. It ran for 18 months. They had two other hit shows running on Broadway at the same time. Sheldon was by now 25. He hankered after a return to Hollywood and came up with a script which David Selznick bought and filmed as The Bachelor And The Bobby Soxer. It starred Cary Grant and won Sheldon the Best Screenplay Oscar for 1947.

"Over the next 12 years I wrote scripts for them all — Grant, Astaire, Crosby, Judy Garland. I was good friends with Grant, whom I later directed." His screenplays included Easter Parade, Annie Get Your Gun and Anything Goes. By the time he left MGM to join the nascent television industry, he was also a producer/director.

In television he plugged straight into the mainstream, creating four long-running television series, including Hart To Hart and I Dream Of Jeannie. He moved into novel writing in the late sixties when he had an idea for a story that he could not see working on the screen. The Naked Face was turned down by five different publishers. When it was eventually published it won an Edgar Allan Poe award and sold 17,000

copies. His agent was very pleased. "I said, excuse me but I've had a show on the air for five years watched by 20 million people a week. I'm not thrilled with 17,000. I made no money on the book but I had such a wonderful sense of freedom. So I wrote the next one with no expectations." He pauses deliberately. "That was The Other Side Of Midnight and it changed my whole life."

The Other Side Of Midnight has as its main character a strong, beautiful woman who struggles against all the odds to move from rags to riches. She is a Sheldonian archetype, and reappears in some form as the main character in all of his fiction. "I like women who are strong but retain their femininity," he says. "I have met so many women like that. People like Sherry Lansing (the Hollywood film producer), my first wife Jorja (who died) — and Alexandra, my second wife." (Alexandra, a former child actress, is sitting at the other end of the table, a beautiful but disconcertingly silent witness to the interview.)

Women make up 60 per cent of his readers. Another fan is the U.S. President-elect, who has just sent Sheldon a note — signed Bill — thanking him for his latest book and saying how much he was looking forward to reading it once he had a little more spare time.

For such readers Sheldon works non-stop, with his next three books already mapped out. Admittedly, much of this work involves travelling around the world with Alexandra doing background research on the glamorous lifestyles his characters usually

rit of Genghis Khan rides again in Russia's Mongol corner

James Flannery

DE, Russia — Russian Mongol warlord Khana as a blood-re, but in this territory some people as a hero. At the airport durable new biog of the 13th century to united north ding Mongol tribes powerful nation, all in its path. tribute couldn't sewhere in Russia. his Khan conquest isiais left a perma-on their national but this is Mongol

country. He wins acclaim from Buryat Mongols, Siberia's largest indigenous community, in Buryatia, a self-ruling republic in the Russian Federation.

Buryats, a tough race descended from the mongols whose "golden horde" created the world's greatest land empire, are now swamped by European Russians in their homeland, once an area tightly closed to foreigners because of its strategic position.

But after decades of Communist suppression, the spirit of Genghis Khan has surfaced again, along with a revival of the Buryats' native

language. The Buryats not only occupy part of his homeland but also claim to be ancestors of Attila the Hun, whose forces rampaged through fifth century Europe.

Honour paid to Genghis Khan, whose mother was born in this region, feeds long-dormant pan-Mongol nationalist sentiment, traditionally distrusted by Russian and Chinese rulers.

The Mongols are too scattered for any resurgence. Some are in this mountainous southeast corner of Russia, some in Outer Mongolia, once a Russian-influenced state which has now cast off communism, and others in

Chinese-ruled Inner Mongolia.

History books are being rewritten to acknowledge the nation-building achievements of Genghis Khan, no longer portrayed simply as a feudal non-person or mass killer.

Buryat Mongols, once nomadic herd-grazers, form only a quarter of the republic's one million population and in Ulan-Ude they comprise only 12 per cent of the citizens.

"He is held here in considerable respect," said tour guide Tatiana Tivanenko, whose European Russian ancestors migrated to Siberia as 17th century pioneers. "On occasion there is some

racial tension, but in my experience this is always caused by the Europeans. The Buryats are quiet, reserved, polite people."

Philosophy teacher Marina, a Buddhist, said: "I was surprised to find so much professional equality when I came from St Petersburg. Some Buryat scientists are senior to Europeans."

But Dmitri, a 20-year-old security guard, disagreed. "Russians 77 per cent, Buryats 23 per cent and that's how it should be."

"I am a racist," he declared. "I don't like the 'yellow people'."

Buryats fiercely resisted the Russian invasion of their

homeland, but are now russified and muted about their heritage.

Two fur-batted militiamen (police) grinned and gave a thumbs-up approval signal when asked about the Mongol leader but they refused to say a word.

This is not the exotic place a romantic traveller might expect, but a hilly city of factories and drab apartment blocks. The main square is dominated by a grotesque-bust of Lenin, the size of a substantial building.

It's the world's biggest representation of Lenin's head and almost certainly pre-empted any attempts to create a rival heroic statue.

A global sampling of cultural events in 1992

By the Associated Press

AKC films, books and on stage, cultural happenings the globe made headlines in 1992.

A year of classics presented in new settings. A Midsummer Night's Dream was staged in Britain, for instance, and another time in the jungle of Brazil.

Also a revealing year for some superstars. Bestselling, bare-all book Sex created a sensation. Michael Jackson brought his Dangerous concert to Romania.

Customs impacted on some arts, too. A South professor was arrested for his sexually explicit

a sampler of noteworthy events as selected by Press correspondents:

UN. Two of television's most popular shows were Gotta Have Guts, a soap opera whose heroine is by-nasty-in-laws, and I Always Liked You, a drama about a mama's boy that illustrated the "mother" afflicting many Japanese men. Madonna's Sex 1,000 copies even, though the publisher retouched to black out make genitals.

Three movies by renowned director Zhang were released domestically for the first time. Two romances Judou and Raise The Red Lantern — banned because of their sexual themes and suspicion that the elderly villains in them were of China's leaders.

ED STATES. The Silence Of The Lambs' swept awards, winning Best Movie, Best Actor for Hopkins, Best Actress for Jodie Foster and Best for Jonathan Demme. All The Pretty Horses by McCarthy won top novel in the National Book and a major Matisse exhibit came to New York. Cole won the Grammy for best record for

Unforgettable, first recorded by her late father, Nat King Cole.

CANADA. Michael Ondaatje's The English Patient was named co-winner of Britain's Booker Prize for Literature. The musical, Kiss Of The Spider Woman, based on the movie and book, had its world premier in Toronto.

BRITAIN. Actress Glenda Jackson forsook the stage for politics, winning the north London district of Hampstead, home of actors and literati, for the opposition Labour Party. Miranda Richardson confirmed her standing as Britain's most versatile young actress with performances in the films Damage, Enchanted April and The Crying Game. "Canadian director Robert Lepage divided British critics with his National Theatre staging of Midsummer Night's Dream in a mudbath.

IRELAND. Director Neil Jordan made The Crying Game, a romantic-thriller with a startling twist. One of its stars, Stephen Rea, created a stir in New York, where he made his Broadway debut in fellow Irishman Frank McGuinness's Someone Who'll Watch Over Me.

GERMANY. The satirical movie Schtonk!, about the 1983 sale of fake Hitler diaries to Stern magazine, directed by Helmut Dietl and starring Goetz George, drew rave reviews.

SWITZERLAND. Switzerland lost a major art attraction with the exodus to Spain of the Thyssen Dornemisa Collection of Lugano, one of the world's most important holdings of priceless paintings.

GREECE. Twenty-two masterpieces of classical sculpture that had never before left-Greece went on tour in the United States to commemorate the 2,500th anniversary of the founding of democracy in ancient Athens.

HUNGARY. Yoko Ono and her Hungarian boyfriend, Samuel Havardtoey, opened an art gallery in Budapest called "Galeria 56, in memory of the abortive 1956 anti-Communist revolt.

Asian theatre director opens new lines of communication

By Max De Lotbiniere

LONDON — When flute-playing, fortune hunter Ranjha sets eyes on the renowned Heer, it must be the oddest staging of love at first sight in the theatre. Ranjha is about to be rudely awakened with a sharp kick from Heer, but he springs up and catches her by the foot. Instead of getting tossed headlong, love strikes — and the two are frozen for a moment in a balletic embrace of foot and hand. The play is Heer Ranjha, a Punjabi story of star-crossed lovers as familiar in India and Pakistan as Romeo and Juliet is in the West, but it is also a pretext for director Jatinda Verma to stretch even further his concept of what theatre is all about. Having won fame in the United Kingdom and abroad for his challenge of traditional theatre, Verma has created a spectacle that keeps the audience off ba-

lance, yet connected to what is going on on the stage.

In England, where the production is currently touring, even audiences who know the story are encountering much that is new. The simplistic love story portrayed in numerous Indian films has been turned into an innovative theatrical spectacle presented by the U.K.'s best-known Asian theatre company, Tara Arts, founded and directed by Verma. The meeting of the two lovers follows Ranjha's not-altogether-convincing search for a fortune, a cocky character, he first falls out with his brothers after their father's death and then sets off, convinced that luck will come his way. Like the whole play, this is staged with a rich mix of song, dance, comic opera and prose. Verma has translated and adapted the production from the 19th century tale by Punjabi poet Varis

Shah.

The character that drives the play and commands the lovers' destiny is Heer. This woman, as Verma points out, is the folk hero of the Punjab, and he takes advantage of this to challenge the Asian public's preconception, while non-Asians keep wondering at the way Verma mixes languages. Punjabi lines break into the play in songs, dialogue and jokes, and English is spoken in a variety of accents — from Indian to Cockney. Verma has created a play that is as much a spectacle for the ears as the eyes.

The company he established in the mid-1970s, which started out performing in community centres and schools, has come a long way, but it has not forgotten the principles on which it was founded. Verma calls it a "twin-pronged stance" — to look out to the wider issues of

the Asian experience in the U.K. and to look in, turning a critical eye on themselves and their community. Another goal is to reach out to non-Asian audiences. The company is "in the process of wanting to communicate," Verma pointed out in a recent interview.

Born in East Africa to Punjabi Hindu parents, Verma arrived in the U.K. in 1968 at the age of 14 and with a university degree. It was the murder of a young Asian in London that awakened in him the desire to confront racism and explore the immigrant experience through theatre. In the 15 years that followed, Tara has staged more than 40 productions. In 1990, Verma became the first Asian director invited to stage a play at the U.K.'s National Theatre. He followed up with his version of Moliere's *Tartuffe* with an adaptation of the 7th century Sanskrit play, *The Little Clay Cart*, in 1992.

Verma is a handsome man, and his thick, black beard, long black leather coat and dark clothes give him a dramatic air. He is not reticent about his work and talks easily. Yet, in spite of his achievements and success, he does not seem ready to enjoy them. His excitement and enthusiasm for anything connected to the theatre is paramount.

His current project started during a two-month trip to Pakistan and India, where he discovered the Heer Ranjha story. There he recruited two Indian actors, Bhageerathi Bai and Nirmal Chandra Pandey, and a musician, Gouranga Choudhry, to join the cast. On the first day of rehearsals, Verma asked each actor to act out a presentation in his or her own language. The rest of the cast then had to piece together the meaning of the presentation. "What was

interesting about that experience," he explained, "was that it forced us to realise that the way in which we were deriving meaning was through things that we often forget about when we depend on language alone — like rhythm, tone, intonation, inflection and gesture." Verma was letting his actors get an understanding of how the audience would feel when confronted by an unknown language in the play.

As an example, Mr. Verma points out a vulgar line in Punjabi, sung in a comic opera scene. For the benefit of the non-Punjabi speakers, it is followed by a line giving the English translation.

"What tending to happen on that first line," he said, "is that there's both an instant recognition from one segment of the audience and an alienation from the rest. It's simple. If you're sitting next to someone who's laughing, you ask yourself, 'what's he laughing at? Why aren't I into this?'" Maybe alienation is too strong a word for it, but there is a moment of frisson. By the second line, people are beginning to make contact. There is at least as much dialogue going on between members of the audience as there is between the audience and actors. That, I think, is very necessary."

Verma is reminded of the public's reaction to his production of *Tartuffe*. "It was always the same. In the first 15 minutes, people were literally saying to themselves, 'What is this? I came to see a French play and this is Urdu being spoken, but they emerged out of the theatre having become involved with the play.'" In the U.K., the cultural mix of audiences will vary from community to community, but Verma is particularly looking forward to the challenge of presenting the

new show to a Japanese audience when it goes to Tokyo next February.

The need for the type of cultural encounter that is Tara's trademark is, Verma believes, more important in the U.K. now than ever. He sees a trend toward cultural isolation. "I think we in Britain have taken a step back in terms of multiculturalism."

There is a kind of retrenchment. For example, we have seen in the theatre this year a resurgence of the classic, English Edwardian "drawing room" play. It's almost as if the theatre is trying to say, 'We need to assert our Englishness in these times when everyone else is asserting their distinctions.' We don't really have cross-fertilisation in any meaningful sense.

What worries me is that we are sowing the seeds for separate homelands in our cultural landscape."

Verma uses the civil war in Yugoslavia as an example of why Heer Ranjha is relevant today. "There neighbours are turning into blood enemies, and it seems to me that the biggest challenge we face, not just in the West but across the world, is of people crossing boundaries, of borders becoming fluid. There is a need to reassert that certain kinds of basic emotions are necessary and more important than national boundaries. But the irony of this story is that it ends like Romeo and Juliet — with the death of the lovers, which almost seems to suggest that really these encounters across the borders are not possible."

Although Heer Ranjha is in the end a tragedy, thanks to Heer's strength of character the tragedy never seems inevitable. A jealous family may divide the lovers and force Heer into marriage, but she cannot be broken, and she wins back Ranjha.



Jatinda Verma, founder and artistic director of one of the U.K.'s most innovative theatre companies, strives to give a multicultural slant to his productions

Though death does finally come, it's not through despair but through deception and murder.

One of Verma's next projects is to stage a production of Homer's *Odyssey* in Australia with Aboriginal Australian and Asian actors. But it is not a move away from the U.K. "The impression I don't want to give is that I despair of Britain and that I am now looking outside. The Australian project represents

a logical extension of what have been doing in Tara and create an aesthetic multiculturalism. That's been apparent even in Ranjha. The influence is multifold, and there are counters going on between the cast, themselves. They are cultural differences yet," he added, summing up Tara and its aims. "The finding a way of sharing same language." — News Link.



David Tse (Ranjha) and Shelley King (Heer) star in Heer Ranjha, a Punjabi story about star-crossed lovers as familiar in India and Pakistan as Romeo and Juliet is in the West.

Batman, Carson and Quayle highlight year in Hollywood

By Michael Miller
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Batman returned, Johnny Carson left, and Hollywood flexed its political muscles like never before.

Such was the year in which box office records were broken, NBC was toppled by CBS in the television ratings battle, and Vice-President Dan Quayle incurred the wrath of the entertainment industry.

The success story of the year was the Warner Bros movie *Batman Returns*, which brought in \$46.5 mil-

lion during its first weekend, setting a new record for a film opening. By December, the picture had taken in \$162.8 million in the United States alone.

The previous opening weekend record was \$42.7 million held by the first *Batman* in 1989.

Batman Returns, which cost \$55 million to make, was one of the few big-budget films released in 1992 as Hollywood continued to tighten its belt.

The new philosophy in the motion picture industry argues that a low or moderate

budget movie can often produce better returns on a percentage basis than those made on mega-budgets.

The idea was introduced in a controversial 1991 internal memo by Jeffrey Katzenberg, chairman of Walt Disney Studios. He criticised the movie industry's "tidal wave of runaway costs and mindless competition" and chastised his own company for making the big-budget, low-profit *Dick Tracy*.

Mr. Katzenberg's views were vindicated this year with two Disney winners. *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle* and *Sister Act*, both moder-

ate budget films.

Disney is now Hollywood's economic trendsetter, according to entertainment industry analyst Chris Dixon.

"In 1992, Disney implemented the concept that was outlined by Mr. Katzenberg in his infamous memo, and clearly this was the year that saw the results of that strategy bear enormous fruits."

"(Disney) was the only studio that grossed \$500 million in the film line, and that's a record for the industry," Mr. Dixon told Reuters.

The other studio that did well was Warner Bros, which in addition to *Batman Returns*, had Clint Eastwood in *The Unforgiven*, proving that cowboy movies can still work.

"The Unforgiven also garnered the first of the annual awards Hollywood will hand out over the coming months. It was voted best movie of 1992 by the Los Angeles Film Critics' Association."

Warner Bros also had *Lethal Weapon II*, *Passenger 57* and *Under Siege*.

Towards the end of the year the people at Fox Studios were also smiling as

Home Alone 2, *Lost In New York* took in \$100 million in its first 24 days. The original took 33 days to reach that mark.

In television, Johnny Carson, king of the late night talk shows, quit NBC's *The Tonight Show* after 30 years at the helm, setting off a ratings war the surprise winner of which was ABC newsman Ted Koppel.

In the overall network ratings war, CBS pushed NBC out of the top spot it had enjoyed for several years. NBC dropped to third, behind ABC.

The most talked-about show in 1992 was the CBS sitcom, *Murphy Brown*, the target of Mr. Quayle's "family values" attack during the presidential election campaign.

Mr. Quayle incurred the wrath not only of the entertainment industry, but single mothers throughout America when he criticised the show's lead character, played by Candice Berge, for choosing to have a baby out of wedlock.

The industry got its own back during the August television Emmy Awards, as star after star lambasted and

poked fun at the vice-

president. Murphy Brown received the award for best leading actress. Mr. Quayle's thick, vice-presidential in his win an Emmy.

The joke may have been on Mr. Quayle. Hollywood, flexed its political muscles like never before, with critics turning out in beseeching people to vote for the Bill Clinton-Al Gore and pouring out cented amounts into the Democratic coffers.

Casablanca 1992: 'Play it again, Hratch'

By Terril Jones
The Associated Press

CASABLANCA, Morocco — From the looks of the dim bar in Casablanca, you'd expect to look up and see Humphrey Bogart serving drinks under the gaze of Ingrid Bergman.

Fifty years after Warner Bros. released "Casablanca," among the most enduring and popular films in cinema history, the legend lives on in this watering hole on Morocco's western coast.

Much like Rick's Cafe Americain of the film, beggars and pickpockets thrive outside the Casablanca bar, in a corner of the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Casablanca.

But inside it's not Sam, the black piano player, who croons "as time goes by" but a Lebanese named Hratch who sings in 14 languages — including Japanese.

Movie posters of Bogart as hard-boiled but sentimental cafe owner Rick, Bergman as

his ex-lover Ilsa and Paul Henreid as stoic but dedicated resistance leader Victor Laszlo cover the walls.

The waiters and bartenders are dressed as Bogart in the film's celebrated final scene, in trench coats and fedoras, or as French police captain Louis Renault.

"It's kind of fun, with all the people dressed up," said John Shanahan, an attorney from Roseland, New Jersey. "It's in character — the waiter's a seriously unfriendly Frenchman."

Casablanca isn't quite the den of espionage, intrigue and gambling the film evokes but a dusty port city of 3 million people, home to Morocco's textile, car parts and construction industries.

"There's no similarity; the movie was filmed entirely in a studio," says Abdul Rahim Daoudi, Casablanca's director of tourism. "But it had an enormous impact. Every day, somewhere in the world, it's shown. It's an excellent publicity aid."

The cynical mystique of Bogart and the beauty and heartbreak of Bergman torn between two lovers has added to the enduring appeal of the film, which premiered on Thanksgiving Day, 1942 after being shot in little more than nine weeks.

"It's also a favorite subject for cinema trivia buffs and the source of some of Hollywood's most memorable lines. Bogart's 'Here's looking at you, kid' comes out as anything from 'good luck to you' in the Brazilian version to 'here's to the public of your eyes' in Japanese."

Restaurants and bars around the world have modeled themselves on the film, from Tel Aviv's Casablanca Bar and Rick's Cafe in Frankfurt to Bogey's Bar in Tokyo and two pubs called Bogart's in Portland, Oregon.

The Hyatt threw a 50th anniversary party in November, flying the British winner of a trivia contest (example:

"What was Ilsa's maiden name, mentioned only once in the film?" Answer: "Lund") to Casablanca for the bash.

Piano player Hratch is besieged by requests to play "as time goes by," up to five times a night. "Sometimes they don't even know the name of the song, they just say, 'play it again, Sam,'" he says in his obligingly raspy voice. "The Japanese ask me to play 'the Humphrey Bogart song.'"

Most cinema fans know that Rick never actually said, "play it again, Sam." The phrase nevertheless lives on, as does the debate over whether Ilsa really loved Rick and was just pretending with Victor Laszlo, who in any case got the girl.

"There's the theory that if she had gone with Rick, the film wouldn't have stood the test of time," says Fiona Atkinson, the British trivia winner. "It's all the human sacrifice of love."

Shakespeare's theatre to draw crowds again after 400 years

By John Follain
Reuter

LONDON — When William Shakespeare put a play on, people chatted by the stage, hawkers sold nuts and bottled beer throughout the performance, and much of the audience were on their feet.

Today's Londoners are spoilt by the plush armchairs of the West End's theatres. Even whispering is frowned on.

But nearly four centuries after the Bard's death, they are to sample the boisterous setting he wrote for and acted in.

The playwright's greatest stage, the wooden Globe Theatre, is being rebuilt across the River Thames from St. Paul's Cathedral, a few metres from the original site.

It was at the Globe, the most successful of the thriving bankside theatres in Shakespeare's heyday, that the first performances of *Hamlet*, *Othello* and *Macbeth* were seen.

In the 16th and early 17th centuries Londoners flocked

to bankside to be entertained — in four theatres, in bull- and bear-baiting rings, cock-fighting pits, and in brothels.

Today, office blocks and warehouses flank the New Globe. Nearly in 1613, a spark fired from a cannon on stage burnt down the original playhouse during a performance of *Henry VIII*.

So far, just two of the 20 sections planned — 17-metre (41 foot) high oak frames fitted with a thatched roof that will encircle the central piazza — tower over the Thames.

But by the 429th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth next April, enough of the bays will be up to host several hundred people for the first performance in the timber-frame replica.

"I want the audience to be more boisterous than they usually are — the way they were in Shakespeare's time," said American actor and film director Sam Wanamaker, who has struggled to build the New Globe since the late 1940s.

Unveiling his plans for the celebration, he said he had chosen Germany's Bremer

Shakespeare Company to be the first to take to the Globe stage, playing *The Merry Wives Of Windsor*.

"This is a very funny play and the German company has five men playing all the parts, including the women — that's very Shakespearean. We want to recreate the acting of the time, with daylight and in the open air," said 70-year-old Wanamaker.

The actors will have no staged lighting, no elaborate set designs, and only live sound effects. There will be standing-room-only for a third of the spectators.

The audience will be the key factor in recreating the Elizabethan atmosphere, said Andrew Gurr, professor of English at Reading University and a consultant for the Globe project.

"Having people on their feet doesn't make for the most settled conditions. Add the hawkers moving around with apples, nuts and bottled beer, and it'll be quite a test for the actors."

"Elizabethans had a completely different mentality and expectations. Theatre was the only entertainment in

town apart from a set of church and bull baiting."

Within five years of opening in 1994 the globe is to dole out tourist sights — side St Paul's and the of London, says the Tourist Board.

Wanamaker wants to the £3 million (\$4.7 million) the chief attraction of a huge centre on Shakespeare and the Elizabethans, clude a museum, an of Shakespeare play, second smaller theatre.

For Wanamaker April's first perform the new theatre will breakthrough in his campaign.

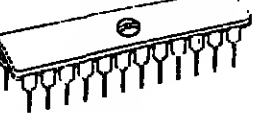
"I would rather to see the Globe as a touchstone. What I'd like to see is a director is very ephemeral, we actors are all vagabond wanderers."

"But this is something long-lasting, an thing for those the world read and Shakespeare."

The magic of the Notebook

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



Living at today's small and powerful Personal Computers which used to accomplish so many different tasks at home or in the office, one finds it difficult to remember the original size of the very first computer, and the purpose were primarily designed for.

In the forties, the first electronic computer had very much to do with the PC we know. To start with, its size was enormous. It occupied all of the 80 square metres of a large floor and its processing capabilities were but a fraction of modern computers. As far as reliability was concerned, let us just say that it needed to be repaired many times a day. This ancestor was basically used for calculations of missiles and rockets during the war. Calculations, if done manually, would have taken so long that the results would have been totally useless by the time they were done. In spite of its relatively poor performance, the first computer was therefore used to solve problems that were virtually impossible to solve on time, and thus served the purpose.

Today's large organisations this is still the main function of the computer — processing amounts of data. Telephone and electricity bills, bank statements, control in manufacturing, airline bookings and data are all examples of tasks that nowadays cannot be done except by computers, considering the enormous amount of data and its complexity. There is simply no way to do it. Let's call this type of work "critical thinking."

In PCs, the matter is different. Though they sometimes use them for "critical processing," PC owners tend to use their machines just to write a letter, check a telephone bill, make simple calculations or play computer games. The ease of use of paper and a pocket calculator are enough to do the above. Moreover, I have always found it more fun to play chess or table tennis with a real friend, a old flesh and blood human being, rather than with a

computer. I strongly feel that within a decade or so, a natural selection will occur and people will use computers only where it is absolutely necessary and the only way out.

In the meantime, the industry has launched a PC format named "Notebook." These are very good looking machines, the size of an A4 paper sheet — 8.5" x 11.7" — and about 2.5" high. Most of them weigh less than five kilograms.

Notebooks are fully featured computers, as powerful as their "desktop" counterparts, and are run exactly in the same way, with the same software. They are obviously designed for people "on the move." How do they compare with the desktop models? Even the best Notebook's display — screen — doesn't have the clarity of the desktop's CRT — Cathode Ray Tube, like a television set — monitor. For obvious reasons, the keyboard is also smaller and doesn't feature the very convenient "numeric keypad." Another point to consider is that notebooks run on rechargeable batteries ensuring an autonomy of three to four hours only, before being recharged.

Notebooks therefore are a blessing for people who spend a lot of time traveling, staying in hotels or spending long hours in planes or airport, and who can't breathe or eat without a computer next to them. While the PCs, launched in the early eighties, have definitely made their mark and are here to stay, notebooks have only been around for one or two years. Will they stand the test of time?

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

ATING, BUT CLEVER DEFINITIONS

ANKRUPT: One who has divorced himself from the hope of an early marriage.

D: — The only perfect climate. If bed is the perfect climate, why do so many people there?

The grave of lost illusions.

N JOUR: A fine how-do-you-do.

AIN: That with which we think we think.

TCHER: A swindler on a small scale.

AMAZING FACTS

SKIN on the eyelids of a human being is only the thickness of an inch thick.

COMMON belief that a drowning person will rise three times before finally sinking has no scientific foundation.

WILD, rash, heedless, foolish, volatile or giddy is said to be "harebrained."

HEART of a snake has been known to beat four hours after the head was severed from the

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

Time & Place

me here soon. Ta'al fil-hal.

to the bank without delay. Rooh fil-bank bedoon ta'kheer.

went upstairs/downstairs. Tafa fawak nizzeel taht.

here is your sister? Fain okhtak?

's inside/outside. Heya jowwa/barra.

house is near the post office. Beitni kareeb min el-bosta.

aba is far from the capital. Al-Aqaba ba'eeda ann al-aslma.

ok! He is coming now. Oanzor! Howa jai al-ann.

in see you later. Momken ashoofak ba'dain.

day is Saturday/Sunday/Friday. El-yuum howa el-Sabt/el-Ahad/el-Jum'a.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

es a hen sit or set on an egg?

iat was the Man of Destiny?

iat is bagasse?

ly is a hus boy so-called?

cenotaph is what type of memorial?

LAUGH TIME

ten a car collided with a lorry, police arrested the ist for drunken driving. "Rubbish," he told the ing office. "Listen to this: Swim, Sam, swim. Sam, you are some swimmer. Swim like the snow white swim. A well-swum swim is a swim well-swum. So Sam-swim."

policeman was not impressed. He issued a sum- When the driver was tried, he recited the tongue r in court.

verdict? Not guilty!

* Jack: "How can you differentiate between a single and a married man?"

Peter: "A single man has no buttons while the other has no shirt at all!"

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

ALLEY: You will have an easy road ahead if you dream of an alley; unless it is a dead end, in which case success will come but only after some hard work.

ALLOWANCE: If you received the allowance from a proper source (i.e. parent, guardian, business, etc.), it indicates a happy time ahead; however, if you gave the allowance or it came from a questionable source, beware of family quarrels.

ALPHABET: Any dream involving letters of the alphabet indicates pleasant news on the way; if, however, your dream concerned foreign letters, you may expect some clue to the solution of a mystery which has troubled you.

ANCHOR: Economise on things you don't really need for a few months.

ANEMIA: A dream of contrary. Your health will be good.

MY NAME, this is what it means

DABBAH: one who slays or kills due to his courage or generosity.

DARWISH: Dervish; poor (Persian)

ZAHED: Monk; worshipper; ascetic; self-denying.

DORAJD: Diminutive of 'darid' meaning to lose one's teeth.

DA'ASS: Slanderer; defamer; trampler; knocker.

DAHMAN: The facet; the assaulter. Also DAHMAN.

DEEB (Pl. DIAB): Wolf/wolves.

DIBBASS: The lion.

PUZZLES

1. There are fifteen colours hidden in the jumble of letters below. You should be able to find them by working backwards and forwards along the rows, and by working up and down the columns. All of the letters are used once, and once only.

E	N	I	M	R	A	C	G
E	G	N	A	R	O	K	E
Y	D	F	U	L	B	C	E
V	L	K	N	I	P	A	Y
A	O	R	U	S	T	L	E
N	G	E	X	A	S	B	M
R	O	S	E	R	E	D	I
D	L	A	R	E	M	E	L
E	S	O	R	M	I	R	P

2. Very quickly, find a single digit number which when raised to the fifth power is equal to 32768.

Why?

By E. Yaghi

And Ruth said: "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: 'The Book Of Ruth 1:16"

"Did anything serious ever happen to you when you were a child?" is a question that has been asked me on more than one occasion.

So, I have begun to search the corridors of my mind for some shocking incidents which occurred to me when I was small. If I had had ample time to formulate an appropriate answer to this question, I might have replied: "Yes, the first shock which shattered my childhood was when my older brother rudely told me 'There's no such thing as Santa Claus.'"

Older siblings are usually so adept at spoiling their younger siblings' dreams. I solemnly retorted: "But of course there is stupid, then how do we get presents for Christmas?"

"Our parents buy them for us you nitwit: And there's no Easter Bunny either!" he growled as he proved his declarations with a hard punch followed by a sharp kick and the final blow of "and for your information, there isn't a tooth fairy either."

Now, I had two choices, one to go on believing in the "big lie" or two, to accept the plain ugly truth. As a rival for parental affection and because I was the younger or lesser one, I decided to totally disregard my brother's cruel remarks. There just had to be a Santa Claus and Easter Bunny and if there was no Tooth Fairy, then who put money under my pillow for every tooth I pulled and placed there? Certainly not Mom or Dad because they never looked suspicious at all. Nevertheless, the first seeds of doubt had crept into my thoughts and I began to nag my mother as we walked down the street a few days before Christmas, "Mom, there are so many Santa Clauses standing all over the city. Which is the real one?"

Without even changing her expression she promptly replied in a calm tone of voice which consoled me: "Oh, those are just his helpers. The real Santa lives at the North Pole and only gives gifts to good little boys and girls on Christmas Eve."

It followed therefore, that the week before Christmas I was always extra good, hoping Santa would forget the other 51 weeks of the year when I had not behaved so angelically. But, other than the first bad news about my mythical childhood fantasies which seeped in to destroy my world of make-believe and the fact that I had come to realise that living creatures do die and disappear from the earth, I suppose I had a fairly normal childhood full of the usual scrapes, bruises, bumps and confused dreams.

By the time I became a teenager, I learned that there were such cruel and inhuman deeds as war, yet, I still imagined the world to be wonderful (with few exceptions) and that most people were very nice. Towards the end of

my high school years however, I became aware of the Palestinian problem and that thanks mainly to Britain and the United States, the country of Palestine ceased to be. All at once there was an Israel and an entire nation had been wiped off the map as if it had never existed. This was my second brutish awakening after the initial one of learning that there was no Santa, Easter Bunny or Tooth Fairy.

Frankly, I was hurt and dumbfounded that my native country America, the one I had always fervently believed in since the first grade, could be party to such a hideous, ruthless and unjust act. This knowledge was a first step in the process of my maturity. The second occurred when I came to Jordan and either personally saw or heard of a never-ending string of tragedies concerning Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq. No, my childhood comprised no special traumatic experiences. I was basically secure in my domain of helping Americans consume the lion's wisdom since coming to the Middle East, regrettably through my own and others' suffering and sadness and it is this sorrow that prevails in much of my writing. Perhaps if I didn't love the Arab people, I could bear their suffering better, but it is because of my infatuation, respect and amour that every Arab tragedy seems to become a part of me and my own experience.

I can't forget the innocent faces of Palestinian children who have either been killed or tortured by Israeli wickedness and when 415 Palestinians, most of them intellectuals, were recently deported into a No-Man's-Land of bitter cold and demoralising snow and shot at from every direction, then this catastrophe becomes my own and I am deeply disturbed and overwhelmed by a feeling of helplessness. I cannot forget that Lebanon was once the Switzerland of the Middle East and has yet to recuperate from its own torn and bleeding wounds. And how can I ever forget the Gulf War? To me, it represents one of the greatest injustices of this century where the eco-socio-political infrastructure of an entire nation was completely destroyed and millions of homeless civilians were massacred. Last but certainly not least, how can I forget the hospitality, generosity, magnanimity of the Jordanian people and all their gallant trials and tribulations?

Therefore, forgive me my beloved people if I often write with sadness for I tend as a writer (however meager) to reflect my present environment and whatever I happen to feel in my heart and mind all too easily become transformed to a flow of ache and agony painted forth in words. I humbly take time to pay tribute to you my cherished readers and I thank you for being so patient with me. To those who wonder, perhaps now they can better understand why many of my writings are sad.

Happy New Year everyone and may we all see a year blessed with peace and goodwill: It is my dream that the Arab nation will become one and that the bitter disputes will become a behaviour of the past and not a code of conduct for the future.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 31

8:30 Uncle Buck

9:10 Civil Wars

The office handles three cases. The divorce of a mobster's wife, the custody of a young girl and the separation of an IRS officer and his wife.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Twins

Starring: Danny Devito

Friday, Jan. 1

8:30 Zorro

Dead Men Tell No Tales

9:10 E.N.G.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Columbo

Death Hits The Jackpot

Uncle Leon cashes the \$30 million jackpot prize and then kills Freddie the real winner. But Columbo will not leave him alone.

Saturday, Jan. 2

8:30 America's Funniest Home Videos

9:10 Perspective

10:00 News In English

10:20 Miniseries

Passion And Paradise

A true story of love and murder in the Bahamas where the richest man in the world was killed.

Sunday, Jan. 3

8:30 Family Matters

Straight As

The father is very pleased



Britain's best known crystal healer- psychic investigator Wednesday

er Soozie Holbeche in James Randi: at 9:30

because Edie scores six As at school.

9:10 Documentary — National Geographic

10:00 News In English

10:20 Cont. Of The Mini-Series

Who killed Sir Harry Oakes? Was it his son-in-law, the Mafia, or the natives of the island?

Monday, Jan. 4

8:30 Step By Step

Frank And Son

9:10 A Fine Romance

The Thomas Crown Affair

How the dentist used Michael to smuggle diamonds from Madrid to San Francisco.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Dismissal

Tuesday, Jan. 5

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Bachelor Party

9:10 Made In Heaven

Falling For Love

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prime Suspect

DCI Jane Tennison is asked to head the investigation team in the case of a female body found buried in a garden.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Echoes In The Darkness

The unfolding details of the most massive homicide investigation in the history of the United States.

8:30 Saved By The Bell

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

We always have time enough, if we will but use it right — Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, German poet (1749-1832).

A happy life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy can live — Bertrand Russell, British philosopher (1872-1970).

Before buying anything, it is well to ask whether one could not do without it — John Lubbock, English astronomer-mathematician (1803-1865).

Childless marriages increasing in industrialised world

By Paul Janositz

SARAH was long infertile. Only in old age did she bear Abraham a son, Isaac. So as the Old Testament tale shows, infertility has been around for quite some time. But it seems to have become a more serious problem in industrialised countries, where the number of childless couples has increased markedly in the past two decades.

Yet there has also been a marked increase in the number of women over 35 who want a first child, as Hamburg gynaecologist Wilhelm Braendle told the 49th annual congress of the German Gynaecological Society in Berlin. Women over 40 were the main concern of the 3,000

doctors and specialists who came. Other topics were gynaecology and genetics, ultrasonic test and oral contraceptive trends.

As women in this age group belong to the first generation which, from the 1960s, had access to effective contraception, a link with increasing infertility has at times been mooted, said Braendle, who works at Hamburg University Hospital's gynaecological clinic. But men too are showing signs of deficiency. "Over the past three decades there has been a marked decline in the number of sperm produced by the 'normal' male."

Environmental influences such as chemicals in the food chain are blamed, as are

changes in the way of life in modern industrial society. It is not clear whether this decline in the number of sperm has any real influence on fertility, but the figures tell a plain tale.

One marriage in 10 used to be childless. The figure is now 15 to 25 per cent, Braendle said. In Britain the number of childless women is reported to have doubled in the past 15 years, but this increase is due mainly to women who don't want children. So the increase in infertility may be due to couples not going in for children until an age at which pregnancy is a naturally more infrequent occurrence.

If nature is left to take its course, the number of couples who have no more chil-

dren trebles from the age of 35 and trebles again from the age of 40, according to a 1957 American survey. It was carried out among the Hutterites, a Mennonite sect, who are particularly well suited for surveys of this kind as they strictly forbid contraception.

It isn't only conception that is harder for women over 40; pregnancy is often fraught with complications too. Only about one in two pregnant women over 40 give birth to babies that are able to survive. The biological borderline can be shifted by using artificially inseminated ovum cells taken from younger women, as suggested by U.S. doctors to postpone the age limit for pregnancies to 50 or so.

Dr. Braendle rejected this idea as macabre. Sterility treatment must not just be aimed at children for parents, he told the congress; parents for the child was a no less important principle. But most women over 40 already have their families as complete as they are ever going to be. So for them contraception is important.

Professor Meinert Breckwoldt of Freiburg University Hospital gynaecological clinic said the Pill was unfairly held in ill repute for alleged side-effects such as thrombosis and strokes. "Don't prescribe the Pill for over-35s" was no longer appropriate as a dogma, he told the congress. Professor Benno Runnebaum of Heidelberg said women in their 40s who took a low-

dosage Pill were less liable to contract breast, ovary and womb cancer.

The Pill had further positive effects in counteracting bone atrophy and promoting regular menstruation and less bleeding. Negative effects, he said, included a slightly higher embolism risk and infrequent cases of liver cancer. Smoking and the Pill were said by specialists to be a dangerous combination, so smoking is by far the most serious risk factor oral contraceptive users face.

The onset of the menopause in the late 40s is marked by hormone changes in the female body that are accompanied by minor complaints in two out of three women and more serious complaints among the re-

maining third. Menopause symptoms include hot flashes, insomnia, nervousness and bouts of depression. They are due to a deficiency of female sex hormones.

Experts are agreed that they can be largely offset by estrogen treatment. Nine women out of 10 then no longer have any trouble. This treatment also benefits the heart and circulation and promotes strong and healthy bones. Professor Breckwoldt said "estrogen treatment could" effectively combat osteoporosis.

Side-effects, such as occurred up to 20 years ago in the United States, due mainly to too-large doses which even caused deaths, need no longer be feared. He said what mattered was

for the situation to be roughly explained to women and doctors too, and that which irrational fears often associated. The pause wasn't just a prelude for women physicians. It also required mental adjustment, said Cologne gynaecologist and psychologist Barbara Fervers-Schörrer.

Women associated menopause with a pre-servative loss of fertility and of sexual attraction. "To terms with this irreversible loss could often be extremely painful," she said. "It is a conflict that was brushed under the carpet by society geared towards and good looks—Stuttg. Zeitung."

Surface protein makes tumours malignant

While the complex transformation of a healthy cell into a cancerous one is partially understood, one dangerous aspect of carcinosis has remained largely unexplained: How does the cancer spread through the body? An essential factor promoting the formation of metastases has now been identified. The surfaces of the spreading cancer cells carry "adhesive proteins," which are also found in normal immune cells.

By Mannela Göbel

CANCER is an insidious disease. Even if a malignant tumour seems to have been removed entirely through surgery or radiotherapy, metastases can arise at completely different locations after a period of several years and destroy vital organs. In order to prevent the fatal spread of the cancer cells which produce these metastases, it is necessary to determine how the cells start scattering in the first place.

Rampant cancer cells over-

come hurdles which are insurmountable for most other cells: First, the cell detaches itself from its neighbours in the tumorous tissue and enters the bloodstream or lymph tracts. Here, it successfully eludes "health police" — white blood cells — and leaves the vessels unscathed. Finally, it infiltrates foreign tissue, lodges itself there and starts to rapidly divide.

The ticket for this journey through the body is only carried by the metastatic cancer cells on their surfaces. This

essential "sticker" was detected by scientists at the German Cancer Research Centre, DKFZ, Heidelberg, and the Nuclear Research Centre Karlsruhe, KFK. Headed by Dr. Margot Zöller, the scientists in Heidelberg established that the surfaces of cells on pancreatic tumour in rats carried a protein which is only found on metastatic cells.

Tumours variants incapable of metastasis do not carry this surface protein. During structural analysis of the "metastatic protein," professor Peter Herrlich and his workers surprisingly discovered that it is by no means unfamiliar: It resembles CD-44 molecules in the cell membranes of white blood cells, which display similar characteristics to those of the wandering cancer cells. They, too, travel through the body via the bloodstream and the lymph tracts.

Apparently, the CD-44 molecule assists them in this process. With the help of the

so-called adhesion molecule, the leucocytes attach themselves to the epithelial cells lining the blood vessels and lymph tracts. Their precise function is still unknown though.

The structural blueprints of both proteins are situated on the same section of the idiosyncrasy. However, in both types of cells, different sections are read from the common gene. For this reason, both proteins are almost identical in their structure and their amino-acid sequence, and probably have the same function. Due to this similarity, the researchers designated their discovery V-CD-44, or CD-44 variant.

After localising the V-CD-44 gene in the genotype, the scientists at the DKFZ performed an elegant experiment to investigate its role during metastasis. They injected the gene into those tumour cells of the rat which had so far been incapable of metastasis. The cancer cells reacted to this genetic man-

ipulation: They split and wandered to other parts of the body, forming metastases there. The scientists achieved the opposite effect through treatment with an antibody which is meant to counter-act the V-CD-44 protein and attaches itself to it. Tumour cells blocked in this manner were no longer able to metastasise.

Further investigations revealed that the "adhesive protein" is not only borne by malignant tumours in the large intestine, but also by perfectly normal cells of the skin, the immune system and the intestinal mucosa. Wherever this molecular ticket has been

found on healthy cells, its presence on the cell surface has been precisely controlled and restricted to a certain stage of development. Only on the metastatic tumour cells does this control seem to be lacking. With the help of antibodies which bind with the V-CD-44 protein on the surface of the cancer cells, thus blocking them, the occurrence of metastases can be prevented; however, this method is purely precautionary, as it only impedes the cancer cells currently travelling through the body. Metastases which have already been formed can no longer be stopped — The German Research Service.

Music before surgery helps reduce fear, pain

By Birgitt Sickenberger

PEOPLE undergoing surgery at some hospitals can now listen to music. At Hellenstein sport clinic in Lüdenscheld, in the Ruhr, patients can choose from 10 kinds of music to be played before and during their operation. Rhythmically exhilarated by the beat or gently swept away by the sound of music, patients are wheeled into the operating theatre with their headphones on.

Dr. Ralph Spintge and his team have been plying his patients with music in waiting areas and hospital corridors, during anaesthesia and even during surgery (if a local anaesthetic is being used) for 16 years.

They have more in mind than providing an extra hospital service. Soothing music combats fear, pain and stress: before surgery patients are given only half the usual dosage of tranquilisers, yet their blood pressure and heart rate are normal and their breathing is stable.

"Music has long been known to raise the pain sensation threshold," Dr. Spintge told a conference in Aachen Fighting Pain Creatively. "That can be shown by comparing the blood cortisone count of patients treated with and without music."

The patient chooses the music he or she wants. Spintge says that even rock and pop music can be soothing. "We can see that from the instruments the anaesthetist has constantly to keep an eye on."

But there are restrictions. German pop songs must be instrumental only; words would preoccupy the patient unnecessarily. English vocals are no problem "since no-one listens to them all that carefully."

Brass is all right for march music but not for the classics, where trumpets and fanfares usually serve the purpose of gaining audience attention. A "symphony with a drum roll" is absolutely taboo.

"Initially patients were almost entirely opposed to the idea," Spintge recalls. In those days they played a melody that pleased no one particularly. That has changed now since everyone can hear the music of their choice. Ninety-seven per cent of patients are delighted with the choice, surveys show (patients are asked to fill in a questionnaire before and after surgery).

The Lüdenscheld surgeons thus soon learn whether their current hits are still in demand or newer trends need to be included in the programme. Patients suffering from chronic pain are played an entirely different range of music from what is tuned into in the surgical wards.

Rhythmical music brightens muscular tension, which is what must be reduced to relieve pain. Patients in this category are played New Age sound, Dr. Spintge says.

Jointly with Münster University music therapy students he has compiled and tested music programmes for patients suffering from chronic pain. Patients say the music gives them back some of their joie de vivre. They feel readier to make contact with others and show a greater sense of personal initiative and responsibility.

With this amount of success it is surprising that music therapy to treat pain is not in use at hospitals everywhere. But school medicine has yet to recognise the treatment and doctors cannot as a rule charge the health insurance for it. "Yet it would save the insurance schemes money," Dr. Spintge says.

"We recouped the cost of installing our musical equipment in four years by savings in drug outlay, and a Scandinavian survey shows that patients can be released two to three days earlier than usual after surgery if they have been given music treatment. That bears out what we have found here in Lüdenscheld — Süddeutsche Zeitung."

Study: Blood vessel count in tumours foreshadows disease outcome

By Paul Reccer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Counting microscopic blood vessels in breast tumours may give doctors a new way of predicting which patients are at high risk of having cancer spread to other organs, a study says.

Dr. Noel Weidner of the University of California, San Francisco, said that the study shows the formation and number of new blood vessels in breast tumour samples provides an accurate forecast of the outcome of a cancer case, and should be included in the diagnostic techniques used by doctors.

"What we have shown is that it correlates very well with cancer outcome, and in some ways is better than any other test," said Dr. Weidner. He said the test will be most useful in deciding if further therapy is needed in women with very small tumours and no lymph node involvement, the so-called node negative cases.

Counting microvessels within a tumour is predictive, he said, because a cancer colony has to form these vessels to receive oxygen and nutrition from the blood. The vessels also provide a path for cancer cells to travel to other parts of the body, creating tumours at distant sites.

The study, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, involved evaluations of tumour tissue from 148 Italian patients who had undergone breast cancer surgery.

Dr. Weidner said the tissue, preserved on slides, was sent to his lab with no indication of whether the patient survived or the cancer spread.

"I had no idea what hap-

pened to those patients," said.

The tissue was then brought out the presence of tiny blood vessels, which were counted under a microscope.

After the slides were processed, Dr. Weidner's results to Italian colleagues who matched his findings the cancer outcome of patients. The results showed, said Dr. Weidner, that where vessel density was high, patients had poor survival rates.

Eighty-three of the breast cancer patients showed no indication of cancer had spread to lymph nodes.

Of this group, 33 women whose tumours showed 33 or fewer blood vessels within the tumour scope's field of view remained cancer free for more than two years. Only 32 women with microvessel counts of 34 to 67 showed a cancer relapse period.

But relapse occurred in eight of 15 women with vessel counts of 68 or more. And among the women who had microvessels of more than 100, developed new cancers, patients were not available for follow-up.

Among patients lymph nodes contained cancer cells, the blood count also predicted outcome.

Dr. Weidner said it will be valuable in women whose breast has not spread to the nodes decide whether they should receive chemotherapy after their tumour has been removed.

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1. She sits.
2. Napoleon.
3. Pulp of sugar cane after the juice has been extracted.
4. Because he does miscellaneous jobs. Bus is an abbreviation of the Latin omnibus, meaning "all."
5. A monument to the memory of one buried elsewhere.

PUZZLES

1. CONFUSED COLOURS:

Black, blue, carmine, emerald, gold, grey, lime, navy, pink, primrose, red, rose, orange, rust, saze.

2. QUICKLE:

Any number raised to its fifth power has its last unchanged; since it was a single-digit number, it has been 8.

The Industrial Commercial and Agricultural Company Limited

(Al Intaj)

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His Majesty King Hussein listens to a briefing during a visit to the company in June 1963

ICA updates, expands production capacity of factories to 30,000 tonnes a year

Following is the speech of Board Chairman Mohammad Abu Hassan during the ceremony which was held yesterday at the factories and attended by Mr. Abdullah Ensour, Minister of Industry and Trade.

On behalf of the board of directors of ICA and all the company family I welcome you to Al Hussein Industrial City.

"Our meeting today coincides with our traditional annual celebration in which we, employees, directors, brothers and friends, meet to thank God for His grace, and the achievements

He bestowed upon us and which we accomplished as one team during the past year. Our meeting also comes as a catalyst for increasing our activities during the coming year. God willing. "We started this tradition at the end of 1990 and this day became a festival for us. It is the day of the company and the day of all its staff, on which it honours its employees who managed over a period of 24 months to increase the production 1.5 times and over three times in the past 36 months. "My brothers, as all of you know, Al Hussein Industrial City is part of Jordan's contemporary history and one of its economic monuments which depict the determination and will of its citizens over the years. "Thirty years ago, His Majesty King Hussein opened this city and named it after himself. The city then included seven factories, that supplied Jordanian citizens with their basic needs of

detergents, soap, perfumes, food supplies, paints and pastes. "Since the establishment of the company, several boards have managed it, and large numbers of technicians, administrative personnel and economists joined its staff. And the company was the starting point for their professional life. "On this occasion, I am glad to inform you that the cadres of Al Hussein Industrial Estate have increased since the beginning of 1990 until the present time from about 400 to 600 people, who are all Jordanians. "Since the current board of directors of this company assumed its responsibility in 1990, it focused its interests on modernising the factories, increasing their production capacity and creating new job opportunities for qualified Jordanian labourers at all levels. It also sent several of its technicians abroad to attend training courses and participate in industrial fairs

so as to be familiarised with modern technologies related to the production of our commodities. The board has also concentrated on quality control, employing the most qualified personnel and using modern equipment to maintain the best quality of products offered in the market. "Recently, the company has celebrated the launching organisational structure of its marketing and sales department which included a pioneering selection of young people who are mostly interested in meeting the citizens' needs of the company's products all over the Kingdom. "On this occasion, I would like to point out that the former promotion department was employing a maximum of 10 persons while the new organisational structure includes 40 persons. "The company's board is also interested in exporting its products to neighbouring Arab and international markets, thus in-

creasing the company's exports from about JD 1,900,000 in 1989 to around JD 11 million in 1991. Our exports till today in the current year have reached JD 13 million. "At the level of commercial fairs in Jordan, the Arab World and the international markets, the company has contributed to organising commercial exhibitions in cooperation with public and private institutions, such as the Commercial Centres Corporation, the Jordanian Exporters Society and the Amman Chamber of Industry. The company had a distinguished role in these events which are considered as a mirror reflecting the achievements of our institutions and economy as well. "In this place, our basic detergents factory had managed to raise its production capacity from 7,000 tonnes annually in 1989 to 17,000 tonnes in 1992.

Today, we celebrate modernising and expanding the factory with the aim of raising its production capacity to 30,000 tonnes a year. The company has purchased the best machinery and equipments to achieve that goal. "The Board of Directors of the company would like to extend its thanks to the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in general and the Ministry of Industry and Trade in particular for their continued support for us and the Jordanian industry, and for their efforts in the development process. "Members of the board of directors have decided that in appreciation of the efforts exerted by the employees of the company and their achievements this year to give them a one-month salary bonus as incentive for more achievements."



Mohammad Abu Hassan

The Industrial Commercial and Agricultural (ICA) Company Limited is a public shareholding company established June 20, 1961. ICA is a combination of seven factories and a printing press.

ARTIFICIAL DETERGENTS FACTORY:

factory produces high and low foam detergents, under license from international companies and local brands.

Under license:

Sil and Dixan are under license from Henkel of Germany. Both are low foam detergents and introduced in 3 and 4.5 kg packs. A high foam detergent, under license from Unilever introduced in 200 gm packs.

Local brands:

Super White bleaching agent, 200 gm bags. Super White high foam detergent is presented in 200 and 400 gm packs. Super White low foam detergent, 3 kg packs. Under White low foam detergent, 3 kg packs.



PAINT FACTORY:

Produces under license from ICI of Britain and local brands.

ICI Products:

- Dulux Gloss-Finish, one gallon and 1/4 gallon.
- Dulux Emulsion paint, one gallon.
- Dulux Undercoat, one gallon.
- Dulux Varnish is presented in 3 sizes, 1/4, 1/2, 1/16 gallon.
- Emulsion Vinyl Silk, one gallon.
- Pernoble car paint, one litre.
- Thinner, 3.5 litre.

Local brands:

- Emulsion Sunway, one gallon.
- Gloss Sunway, one gallon.
- Emulsion Superlux, one gallon.
- Primer Sunway, one gallon.



COSMETICS FACTORY:

This factory has two major production lines, the pastes and creams line and the liquids line. Both produce under license and local brands.

THE PASTE AND CREAMS LINE: Under License from Unilever:

- Erasmic shaving cream, 70 gm tubes.
- Signal tooth paste, 50, 80, and 135 gm tubes.
- Pepsodent tooth paste, 50 gm tubes.

Local brands:

- Ideal shaving cream, 70 gm tubes.
- Diamond glow tooth paste, 50 and 80 gm tubes.

LIQUIDS LINE: Under license from Unilever:

- Sunsilk shampoo is presented in 3 sizes (130, 250 and 500 cc) and in 6 different colours.
- Lux dishwashing liquid 600 cc.

Local brands:

- Liza shampoo, 250 cc.
- Super White dishwashing liquid, one litre and 3.6 litre.
- Super Brilliant toilet bowl cleaner, one litre.
- Super Wonder, window/glass cleaner, 650 cc.
- Crisol antiseptic disinfectant, 500 gm.
- Gemtol antiseptic, 500 gm.
- Liza carpet cleaner, one litre.
- Liza baby powder, 227 gm.

BISCUIT FACTORY:

Produces a variety of local brands to match different tastes:

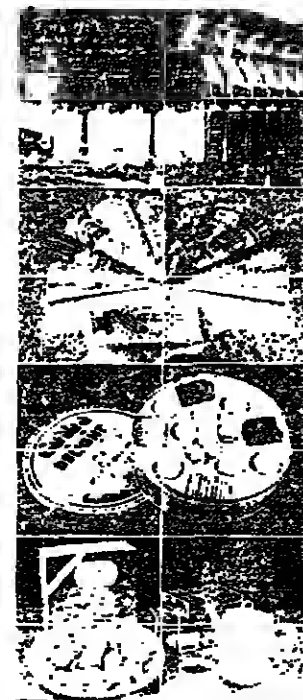
- Petit Beurre, 70 and 140 gm rolls.
- Petit Beurre, 4 pieces.
- Marie biscuits, 65 and 130 gm rolls.

- Reem biscuits, 1 kg boxes.
- Okay children's toys biscuits, 45 gm bags.
- Lemon Cream biscuits, 200 gm boxes.
- Chocolate Cream biscuits, 200 gm boxes.
- Assorted Cream biscuits, 200 gm boxes.
- Okay assorted soft biscuits, 600 gm boxes.
- Delight, super family biscuits, 908 gm tins.



ICE CREAM FACTORY:

Produces vanilla ice cream, chocolate covered vanilla ice cream, cones and cups.

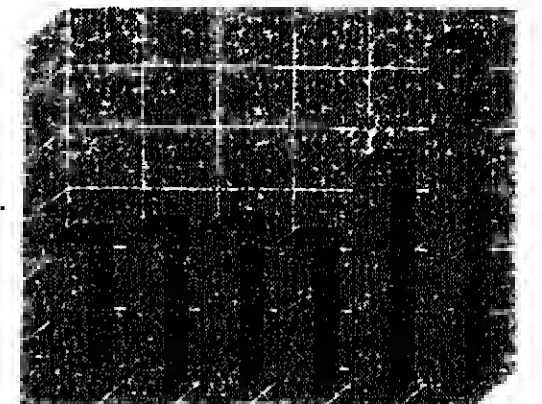


GLYCERINE FACTORY:

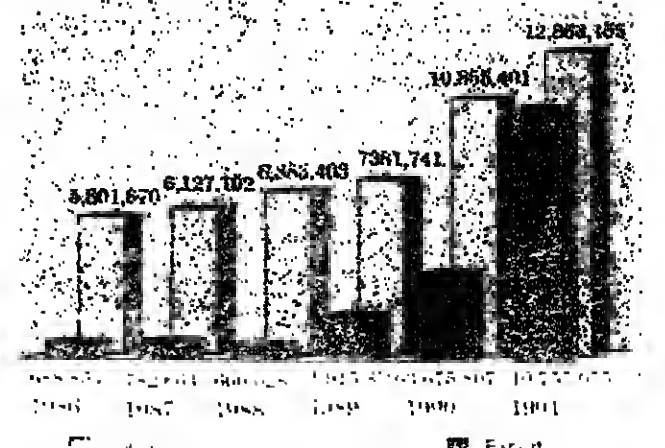
Produces 98% pure medical glycerine.

THE PRINTING PRESS:

Equipped with four colour printing facilities, the printing press complements the factories' production by packaging materials for many ICA products. Printing cardboard boxes of all sizes and shapes, the press aims at fulfilling the needs of the local as well as foreign markets.



Production Balance / Ton



Local & Export Sales Balance - JD

Year	Total Sales	Domestic Markets	Export Markets
1986	6,490,524	5,801,670	688,854
1987	6,909,766	6,127,102	782,664
1988	7,543,431	6,883,403	660,028
1989	9,297,620	7,381,741	1,915,879
1990	14,531,208	10,855,401	3,675,807
1991	23,620,810	12,863,155	10,757,655



1st Division Basketball Championship

Ahli defeat Orthodoxy 68-65

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ahli Wednesday proved nothing can be taken for granted — especially in a basketball match — when they beat all-time rivals Al Orthodoxy 68-65 in the final seconds of their first round match in the First Division Basketball Championship, and moved a step closer to the 1992 championship title.

The match, played at the Sports Palace Court in Al Hussein Youth City and attended by their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali and Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, Minister of Youth and Sports, in addition to over 2000 basketball fans was one of the most interesting both teams have played in their decade long rivalry.

Sports commentators, fans and practically everyone following up the championship now underway believed Al Orthodoxy would score quite an easy win over their opponents who had not appeared as strong contenders for regaining the title in their matches throughout the past weeks.

That was not the case this time however.

Although Al Orthodoxy led 9-0 and 12-5 at the beginning, Al Ahli caught up after two three-pointers by Marwan Ma'touq narrowing the gap to 18-13. Al Orthodoxy kept the lead at 24-17, but Al Ahli's Naser Bushuq and Mar-

wan Al Saeedi secured rebounding and scored trailing 24-21. Al Orthodoxy's Murad Barakat, who usually scores most of his team's points, was closely guarded and could not score for 13 minutes as his team expanded their lead to 36-25.

Al Ahli played a faster game in the final minutes of the first half, trying to minimize the difference and took advantage of some loose balls but failed to capitalise on two chances to draw, as Al Orthodoxy kept their lead and won the first half 43-38.

Ma'touq scored a crucial three-pointer for Al Ahli who still trailed 43-41. Al Orthodoxy seemed to lose their concentration and had it not been for Bilal Barakat's energetic efforts they would have lost their lead early in the second half.

Ma'touq scored another three-pointer as Al Orthodoxy's 47-41 lead was narrowed to 51-48.

With nine minutes remaining Al Ahli's relentless efforts paid off as they drew at 53-53. Bilal Barakat kept on scoring for his team to

again give his team a 61-55 lead with 5 minutes remaining. In the meantime Al Ahli's undisputed star, Ma'touq, and al Orthodoxy's Muntaser Abaltayeb were fouled out.

Al Orthodoxy led 65-64 with 41 seconds, and their coach called for a time-out. Al Ahli's Youssef Zaghoul scored to give his team the lead 66-65, while Al Orthodoxy's Jan Sablich lost a free throw that might have given his team the chance to draw and possibly win. Al Ahli's Zaghoul was fouled in the final second and two free throws gave Al Ahli a three point — yet very precious win.

Meanwhile, Al Jazireh secured third place for now after they beat Al Abbas 98-46, the first half ending 48-14.

Al Ahli remained in sixth place for now as they had difficulty overcoming Hometmen 82-71, the first half ending 47-25, while Al Hussein settled for fourth place after defeating Al Watani 91-47.

The second round will begin on Jan. 8.

Team	W	L	PF	SA	Pts
Al Ahli	7	—	719	376	14
Al Orthodoxy	6	1	910	468	13
Al Jazireh	4	3	574	539	11
Al Hussein	4	3	609	602	11
Al Watani	3	4	425	570	10
Al Jazireh	3	4	487	493	9
Hometmen	1	6	476	748	8
Al Abbas	—	7	372	776	7

Sarajevo team works to stay in shape

SARAJEVO (AP) — Coach Fuad Muzurovic and FC Sarajevo, two-time Yugoslav First Division soccer champions, are in the market for invitational matches. The only problem is they can't leave the city to play in them.

Sarajevo has been under siege since Serb forces attacked the city in April. Since June, only a handful of people have been able to get out to territory still held by the newly independent government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Sarajevo, one of the city's two first-division teams, was in Belgrade April 4 for a game against Red Star when the war broke out. Twelve of the team's 25 players — all of them Serbs — chose not to return to the beleaguered city.

Muzurovic, a Muslim, went home with the remaining 13 players, whose names read like a recipe for the ethnic mixture that made Sarajevo the melting pot of the former Yugoslavia.

"Our team is made up of Muslims, Croats and Serbs," said FC Sarajevo president Muhamed Granov, a Muslim. "We called up nine players from our junior team to get back up to our full number."

The team's manager, Svetozar Vujovic, is a Serb, and there are several Croats on the board of directors.

The Yugoslav Soccer League fell apart during the 1991 season after war broke out between

Croats and Serbs in Croatia. Sarajevo was then in fourth place, with a shot at gaining a place in the UEFA CUP competition.

Psychiatrist Radovan Karadzic, leader of the self-proclaimed Serbian Republic of Bosnia, served as the team's psychologist for eight years until 1989, when he became a member of the Bosnian parliament.

U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger has named Karadzic as one of 10 men who could be tried for war crimes as a result of the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"He was a friend of the manager. I don't think he was very good as a team psychologist," Muzurovic said. "They fell asleep whenever he gave the pep talks."

Sarajevo continues to train and play whenever possible. Granov says the team has to be in good condition when the fighting stops and matches resume.

Two players moved into the downtown Holiday Inn after their homes were destroyed by Serb shelling and the hotel itself has been subject to frequent bombardment.

When the war broke out, most of the players were conscripted into the Bosnian army and served on the front lines on the outskirts of the city.

They practiced on their days off. A few still both fight and practice or play each day, but most have received special deferments.

FC Ziljeznica, the city's other team, hasn't been able to keep up morale or its schedule. Their stadium and clubhouse are located in the Grbavica neighborhood held by Serb forces.

Just before Christmas, Sarajevo played a round-robin tournament with the HVO Croatian military forces stationed in Sarajevo as part of a mutual defense agreement between the Republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and with soldiers from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) on duty in Sarajevo.

What Granov and Muzurovic and the other members of the club's executive board would really like is an invitation to play a benefit match abroad, where they could raise money for their suffering city.

But obtaining permission to leave the city is difficult. Under current United Nations high commission for refugees regulations, only journalists, official delegations, and seriously ill or wounded people can get out on the UNHCR relief flights.

The U.N. granted special dispensation to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Olympic team to travel on a chartered airliner to Barcelona for the Summer Olympics in July.

Some 107 future Bosnian Olympians are also awaiting authorization to leave the city for training programmes sponsored by National Olympic Committees of Turkey, Japan and Germany.

Big gap in NBA teams this season

By The Associated Press

THE DIFFERENCE between the top of the NBA and the bottom is especially wide this season.

Try 41 points wide. That was the margin of victory when the Phoenix Suns, riding a 13-game winning streak and a 20-4 record, defeated Denver 129-88, tying the Nuggets' team-record of 11 consecutive losses.

"I wouldn't go as far as to say that it's the worst I've seen any team play," Denver coach Dan Issel said after that loss. "Someplace in professional basketball, sometime, someone has played worse."

Issel wouldn't have to look long to find a team playing worse than his. After all, the Nuggets are in fourth place in the six-team Midwest division, ahead of Minnesota and Dallas.

Although the season is barely one-quarter over, eight NBA teams have had losing streaks of seven games or more, and Dallas, Milwaukee and Denver have each lost as many as 11 straight. The Washington Bullets snapped a nine-game skid, 97-96 at home against Atlanta.

Of the eight teams with long losing streaks, only the Detroit Pistons have turned it around, winning 10 of 11 games after a 2-9 start.

Leading the way on the haplessness scale are the Mavericks, who are 2-20, a winning percentage of .091 that surpasses the full-season record-low of .110 by the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers, who finished 9-73.

The failure to sign first-round draft pick Jim Jackson set back the rebuilding plan that Rick Sund, the Mavericks' vice president of basketball operations, calls "losing with a purpose."

"We knew we'd be bad this season because we've got the youngest team in the league. We're real thin NBA talent-wise," Sund said.

Sund said getting nothing from Jackson could mean seven years before the Mavericks are playoff contenders again. Jackson was viewed as the first piece of a massive rebuilding puzzle. His loss leaves Dallas five starters short of a playoff team.

Minnesota, in the same division as Dallas, has the second-worst record in the league at 5-18. The Timberwolves' 114-95 loss at Utah was their seventh straight and 11th in 12 games.

Sacramento, which has won three straight games after losing eight consecutive times, and Philadelphia, 3-10 at home put a respectable 5-6 on the road, have had frustrating seasons after starting with hopes for improvement.

One common thread of the worst NBA teams are their youth. And with that youth comes inconsistency.

"I seem like every game we have a four — or five-minute stretch when we can't make a jump shot and we turn the ball over," Issel said. "Those four- or five-minute stretches are killing us."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya withdraw from 1994 World Cup qualifiers

ZURICH (R) — Libya have pulled out of their 1994 World Cup qualifying group, the International Football Federation (FIFA) said Wednesday. The withdrawal, due to the United Nations ban on flights to or from Libya, means Africa group D now only comprises Nigeria, Congo and South Africa. Libya's participation had been in severe doubt since September when all their matches were postponed indefinitely.

Report: Rai near accord with Atletico Madrid

MADRID (AP) — Atletico Madrid has reached an agreement for the transfer of Brazilian soccer star Rai to the Spanish First-Division club for next year, news reports said Tuesday. Spanish Television said Rai's Sao Paulo club had agreed to the amount of the transfer fee. The report said the only thing yet to be agreed was Rai's percentage of the fee. He is asking for 20 per cent and the club is offering 10, reports said. Atletico's general manager Miguel Angel Gil Martin told the Spanish News Agency EFE that Rai would join club in July. He discounted reports that the French club Paris St. Germain had the inside track on signing the Brazilian midfielder. The Madrid Daily El Pais reported Tuesday that cross-town rival Real Madrid had lost interest in the Brazilian midfielder because of his commitments with Brazil's national team. El Pais said Rai's transfer fee would be 253 million pesetas (\$2.3 million).

Jordan leads Bulls over Hornets

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan had 28 points and his 26th career triple-double as the Chicago Bulls beat the Charlotte Hornets for the 17th straight time, 114-103. Jordan finished with 12 rebounds and 11 assists to lead the Bulls to their fifth straight victory and eighth in nine starts. Horace Grant added 20 points for the Bulls. Chicago hasn't lost to the Hornets since bowing in the series opener 103-101 Dec. 23, 1988. Johnny Newman had 28 points to lead the Hornets. In New York, Patrick Ewing scored 24 of his 29 points in the second half and Greg Anthony had a career-high 23. The win was the 13th in 14 games at Madison Square Garden for the Knicks, who lost their previous two games on the road. It was the fourth consecutive loss for the Pacers, who were led by Reggie Miller with 23 points and Detlef Schrempf with 19. Anthony, in the lineup because Doc Rivers has a partial dislocation of his right shoulder, made the only other start of his two-year NBA career Dec. 28, 1991, also against the Pacers. He scored 18 points in the middle two periods.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JANUARY 1, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Triple Moon squares to Uranus, Neptune and Mars aren't the best way to get the New Year underway but it is a good day to display those gregarious qualities you possess, to there fullest.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Whether at home, on the road, at shops or places of business or for public activities you find you make real progress during the day, then relax on your laurels.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think about the best way to improve your personal appearance whether at a beauty salon or barber shop and then arrange to enjoy desired pleasures.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You would be wise now to consider whatever is needed to make your residence more attractive and operative but don't lose time but do so right away.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be off and out into the world of activity early and gain the progress that appeals to you in communications with those you enjoy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Reduce those very sensible ideas that you have to a working success so that you will soon have a greater abundance and to spare for your needs.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can clearly perceive what

you both desire and that will be good for you personally so go after it early in an aggressive and definite manner.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have some intimate and highly personal tasks to attend and this is a very good day to put aside more public activities and to get them done.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Decide what you want of a subjective nature in exact detail and then make plans to see those able to aid you to make it part of your existence.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are quite a number of vocational activities awaiting your attention — that require more than usual meticulousness on your part so give it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a trip coming up and it is necessary and advisable that you plan it so that you miss not benefit that could occur to you on the journey.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A time to get into whatever you owe others or have coming to you in an itemized statement and get obligations of all sorts rightly attended to.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider messages of importance and resolutions to be rightly made during the day and you celebrate New Year's arrival best this year beneath your own roof.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY DECEMBER 31, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Combine your intuition and prophetic insight with your matter and best judgement, giving yourself the chance to forge ahead to new inspired goals with less drawbacks, as we face the New Year.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) During the day try as well as you can to find out what business associated aspect of you and tonight get off to a surprising new activity.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Delve into whatever public matter perplexes you and you can get correct answers during the daytime but tonight find ways to implement your promises made.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Perfect as much as possible whatever your present activities are before tonight you get together with an unusual personality.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have the chance now to make arrangements to engage in recreations and amusements that attract you, then a work matter requires much attention.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you have in mind concerning making your home more of a haven of rest is good if you stick to fundamentals; tonight expect a surprise guest.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now should be able to contact those outside persons who

can assist in making your productive, while tonight through on an inspirational LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take some time out of all aspects of your present arrangements and improve them tonight avoid some unusual expense.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day campaign of action who will be able to more qui your personal longings accept a surprise favor.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Keeping in the grindstone of duties performed makes it possible you to accomplish a great today, tonight, an interest arises.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a who will be as at your back some personal desire you gain and later be with a fascinates you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your day should have priority all daytime so concentrate on them, working well, for something of a civic nature.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have some course of action you want motion to get all factors today, tonight you see a make it work well.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

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Economy

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Citibank American Bank
for International Business

Item	NEW YORK CLOSE	THREE MONTHS
100% T-Bill	100.00	100.00
100% T-Bill	100.00	100.00
100% T-Bill	100.00	100.00
100% T-Bill	100.00	100.00
100% T-Bill	100.00	100.00
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100% T-Bill	100.00	100.00

Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Table

Item	USD	EUR
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
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Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Table

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Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Table

Item	USD	EUR
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100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00

DRAGON EXCHANGE RATES

Item	USD	EUR
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
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100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00

Wall Street raises record \$838 billion through stock and bond offerings in 1992

NEW YORK (AP) — While much of the nation was in a recession this year, it was boom time on Wall Street, according to figures released Tuesday.

Wall Street brokerage houses raised a record \$838 billion through stock and bond offerings in 1992, double the amount raised in 1991, according to figures released Tuesday.

The figures show that the total amount of new issues of securities was \$838 billion, up from \$419 billion in 1991. The total amount of new issues of securities was \$838 billion, up from \$419 billion in 1991.

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UAE share trading keeps up momentum

ABU DHABI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) official telephone-traded stock market registered a record high in 1992 with investor confidence surging after the Gulf war and interest rates falling, brokers said Tuesday.

Brokers and investors are pushing for the establishment of an official stock exchange in the UAE and for banks to declare quarterly results to further boost share trading.

Only UAE nationals are allowed to deal in local stocks but investors and traders have urged the authorities to allow other Gulf nationals to play part of the local market.

In line with U.S. bank deposit rates on the dollar, which has risen to 5.25 per cent, the UAE share market has risen to 5.25 per cent.

Trade on Bahrain Stock Exchange nearly doubles

MANAMA (AP) — The value of shares traded in the first nine months of 1992 on the Bahrain Stock Exchange nearly doubled from the same period last year, the exchange announced Tuesday.

Interest in trading has steadily risen since the bourse began operations in June 1989. Many investors view investments in stocks as a more profitable way of earning returns than interest-bearing deposits.

The value of shares traded in the first nine months of 1992 was \$14.5 million, compared with \$7.5 million in the same period last year.

Saudis to give Bahrain more from joint oilfield

MANAMA (AP) — Saudi Arabia will dramatically increase Bahrain's share of revenues from production at a jointly owned offshore oilfield, Bahrain said Tuesday.

The new arrangement is for a 50-50 split of the oilfield's production, up from the 30-70 split that has been in place since the field was discovered in 1971.

The field has produced about 100,000 barrels of oil per day since it was discovered in 1971. The new arrangement will increase Bahrain's share of the oilfield's production to 50 per cent.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item	1992	1991
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00
100% T-Bill	1.00	1.00

Taiwan attains developed economy status

TAIPEI (AP) — Taiwan will attain the status of a developed economy this year as its per capita gross national product (GNP) reaches \$12,000 for the first time, the government said Tuesday.

The move was based on the country's rapid economic growth in the past few years, with capital-intensive and high-technology products now expanding rapidly and labor-intensive industries shrinking.

The government's economic policy was shifting from focusing on rapid growth to ensuring "balanced development" of all sectors of the economy and opening markets up to more domestic and foreign competition.

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Shrimps (Jumbo) JD 5 a kilo.

Shrimps (all types) JD 5 a kilo.

Sultan Ibrahim JD 4.

Fillet JD 5.5.

Grouper, Sea Bass, Snapper, etc.

Emperor and etc.

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Shows 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m.

Next Show

Body Guard

PHILADELPHIA

BLACK RAIN

Shows 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 p.m.

Thu-Fri. special show for children at 11:00 a.m.

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A play, entitled

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